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## Report: Shahak won't seek fourth year

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In an unprecedented move, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will not seek to have his term extended to a full fourth year, Channel 2 reported.

The report attributed Shahak's decision to discontent over his working relationship with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

According to the TV report, Shahak is to inform Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai that he is not interested in extending his term by a full year, when they are to meet later this week to discuss his future with the IDF.

Shahak telephoned Netanyahu last night to deny the report, Israel Radio reported.

The IDF Spokesman released a statement last night saying that, contrary to the Channel 2 report, no meeting has been set in the coming days between Shahak and Mordechai regarding his service.

"The report did not come from the chief of general staff and does not reflect his opinion," the statement said.

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu reacted to the report by saying "only that the defense minister had not yet concluded the appointments in the general staff."

It would be the first time that a chief of general staff did not seek a fourth year, which has traditionally been granted as a matter of course.

The unattributed television report said Shahak would likely step down on Israel's 50th independence day, seven months short of the end of his fourth year, so



Amnon Lipkin-Shahak

that his replacement would be able to put together a 1999 working plan.

In a briefing with military reporters just prior to Independence Day, Shahak, 53, said he had not yet made up his mind whether he would extend his term for a fourth year.

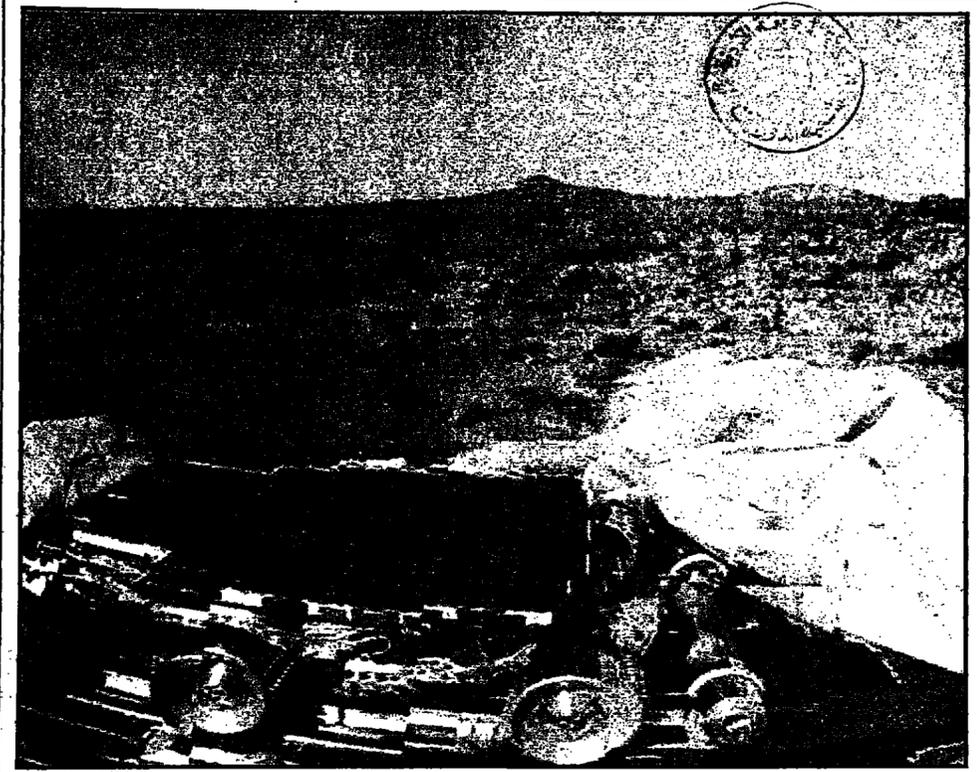
But he also said he believed that the aging of the senior command in the IDF was bad for the military.

Immediately after Netanyahu's victory last year, rumors surfaced that Shahak and other top members of the general staff, such as Deputy Chief of Staff Maj-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, 54, would resign if Yitzhak Mordechai was named defense minister.

After his appointment, Mordechai, who had earlier been angered at Vilna'i and Shahak for taking posts he had wanted in the military, made great efforts to diffuse tensions with the general staff and has developed good working relations with them.

The speculation is that despite past grievances, Mordechai will have no choice but to recommend to the government that Vilna'i replace Shahak.

Another possible candidate is OC Planning Branch Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, a former OC Southern Command.



The Mars Pathfinder rover vehicle and an impact-stopping airbag are shown on the surface of Mars in this image from NASA, transmitted to Earth from the Mars Pathfinder probe Friday. A section of the airbags on the right has blocked the path of the rover's exit ramp, delaying its deployment. (AP)

## Stalled rover vehicle only glitch so far in Mars landing

By JANE E. ALLEN

PASADENA, California (AP) - After happily receiving the first images sent from Mars in two decades, NASA scientists scrambled yesterday to fix a problem with the pride and joy of the Pathfinder spacecraft: its little rover.

The communications problem between Pathfinder and the six-wheeled Sojourner emerged late Friday, hours after a flawless and dramatic landing on the cold surface of the red planet after a seven-month journey of 500 million km.

If the problem isn't fixed, engineers may not be able to drive Sojourner around the Martian surface via remote control, rover manager Jacob Matijevic said. NASA has hoped that the rover would record chemical information about rocks and soil on Mars, the first step in its search for signs of ancient life on the planet.

21 years, has already sent back strikingly clear pictures of a rust-colored, boulder-strewn plain. The highly anticipated journey of the rover had been delayed anyway. One of the airbags that cushioned Pathfinder's free fall didn't retract properly, blocking the rover's pioneering roll to Martian soil.

"The great galactic ghoul had to get us somewhere and apparently the ghoul has decided to pick on the rover," said Donna Shirley, the Mars exploration program manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and head of the team that created the rover.

Astronauts itching to go to Mars, Page 2

See MARS, Page 10

## TV: Apartments for haredi needy went to those with political ties

Forty percent of the apartments in Ramat Shlomo, a haredi neighborhood in Jerusalem, were sold to people ineligible for Housing Ministry assistance, including individuals close to the heads of non-profit organizations that marketed the homes, costing the state some NIS 150 million, Channel 1 reported Friday night.

The report said the homes were sold to those close to the heads of the organizations, their families and friends. These homes were sold at below-market prices due to government subsidies that should only have gone to eligible individuals. Channel 1 reported that among those who benefitted were relatives of Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and the head of the National Religious Party's Jerusalem

office, Yehuda Levinger. The report said some of the individuals subsequently sold their homes for the full market price and made a profit. Some of the homes were also allegedly sold to foreigners.

## Assad: Clinton can achieve Mideast peace

CAIRO - Syrian President Hafez Assad says he is confident that US President Clinton can help achieve peace in the Middle East. Asked about the stalled peace process, Assad told Al-Ahram newspaper yesterday that one could not attach significance to a principle, an international leadership "does not attach significance to a principle, an international decision or an ethical law." The problem is that Israel has convinced American politicians that it is an "oasis of democracy" in the region, but at the same time a "weak entity facing the Arab power," he said.

## Israeli's 30m. Coke is the real thing

LOS ANGELES - Good old Israeli ingenuity has triumphed again and will be introduced to the world media tomorrow evening, when Las Vegas unveils its latest mind-boggling landmark. It is a 30-meter-high Coca-Cola bottle, a new world record, encasing two elevators that take visitors to the fourth story of a "showcase mall" dedicated to the World of Coca-Cola. The giant bottle's exterior, festooned with thousands of flashing bulbs and neon, will light up the Las Vegas Strip. On the bottle's inside, folks riding the elevators will be treated to "sounds of crackling ice, pouring soda and a sound track of dynamic Coca-Cola jingles," revealed a breathless Coca-Cola all-points bulletin from Atlanta headquarters.

## PM: Peace process in danger

By JAY BUSHINSKY, MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

The peace process is in serious danger because of the ongoing violence in Hebron and the intermittent clashes in the Gaza Strip's Gush Katif, according to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Stressing the grave political impact of these events, Netanyahu told the cabinet Friday that Israel's effort to resume bilateral negotiations and renew joint security operations is imperiled by the events in Hebron.

behind the scenes with the Palestinians on a package deal that will enable them to resume their stalled peace negotiations.

He said the main obstacle was the violence in Hebron.

"We have sent them a very clear message that with the violence there just won't be a solution," Naveh told Channel 1.

A harsh warning was also issued by OC Judea and Samaria Maj-Gen. Gabi Ophir. "Whoever throws a bomb with the intention of killing someone will also meet his death," Ophir told Army Radio on Friday.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh said on Friday that Netanyahu had "provoked the Palestinian masses by assaulting their rights, stealing land, and widening settlements."

No IDF soldiers or border policemen were injured in Hebron, but Palestinians claimed that 15 rioters were wounded on Friday and yesterday, a youth was hit in the chest by a rubber bullet and a woman was hit by stones allegedly thrown at her by settlers.

The IDF Spokesman said that on Friday morning troops set up roadblocks outside Hebron to prevent Palestinians from other areas from entering the H1 area. The spokesman stressed, however, that residents of Hebron were free to enter or leave the city. In addition, some of the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols were stopped, the spokesman said.

Scores of Palestinians rioted on Friday morning in the casbah and Shalallah Road area, throwing bottles of acid, stones and firebombs at IDF troops and Border Police.

See VIOLENCE, Page 10

He charged that the Palestinian Authority not only has "done nothing to prevent the Hebron outbreaks, but it also organized the Gush Katif clashes."

"Very sharp messages were sent to the Palestinians on this matter, through the security establishment as well as by other means," a cabinet

Commentary, Page 2

inet communique said.

Netanyahu said his government is "anxious" to get on with the stymied final status talks, "but it is not willing to accept street violence as a norm which takes place while negotiations are under way."

The government has warned the PA of a stronger military response unless it puts an end to the violence.

Netanyahu telephoned US President Bill Clinton on Friday and briefed him on the violence in Hebron.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, meanwhile, said yesterday that the government is negotiating

## Levy to decide soon whether to stay

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Foreign Minister David Levy is expected to decide today or tomorrow whether to remain in the government or quit.

Levy took part in Friday's cabinet meeting, which Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Ilan described as "a very amiable session" adding: "I think it's just a matter of tying up the loose ends" about the lingering crisis.

Netanyahu is waiting for Levy's answer concerning the latter's plans, before presenting his new cabinet to the Knesset tomorrow, and hopes to end the crisis by then.

between them, although no meeting had been scheduled by last night and the two were not in touch over the weekend, during which Levy was at home and did not deal with politics.

Close aides of Netanyahu and Levy held intensive meetings at the end of last week in an effort to settle the issues at the heart of the crisis. This includes Levy's authority and responsibility vis-a-vis the peace process, which Levy is demanding to lead, implementing the coalition agreement with Geshet, i.e. appointing a deputy finance minister instead of MK David Magen, who resigned, and making Levy partner to the debate on the next state budget.

The two are expected to meet today to finalize the agreement

See LEVY, Page 10



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# NEWS

in brief

## Golan Heights nature reserve ravaged by fire

A giant brush fire almost completely destroyed Jordan Park in the Golan Heights yesterday, burning a 1,500-dunam area. Sixteen fire engines and two air force helicopters were used to bring the blaze under control, a spokesman for the fire service said. The fire broke out in several places at once, giving rise to the suspicion of arson, but this was not certain, the spokesman said. Several families from Moshav Almagor were evacuated from their homes as the blaze approached it. One man in Moshav Tefahot was treated for smoke inhalation, but residents there were not evacuated. *News agencies*

## Thousands rally in Nazareth against pig poster

Some 4,000 people demonstrated yesterday afternoon in Nazareth against the flier distributed in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig. Speakers called on settlers to leave Hebron. At the end of the rally, protesters threw stones at police and passing cars, and a young woman was lightly injured when a stone smashed her window and hit her. Police arrested eight protesters for violent behavior. *Itim*

## New Netanyahu adviser going to US tomorrow

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's newly appointed political adviser Uzi Arad is scheduled to fly to the US tomorrow for talks with Clinton administration officials, Congressional leaders, and American-Jewish leaders. Arad also will meet representatives of the US media.

He had been scheduled to take off last Thursday, but his itinerary was revised to enable Foreign Minister David Levy to be apprised of his mission and to have an opportunity to contribute his input and political guidance. *Jay Bushinsky*

## Netanyahu wishes Clinton happy July 4

In a good-will gesture timed to coincide with US Independence Day, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu telephoned President Bill Clinton on Friday to congratulate him on the 221st anniversary of the Americans' revolt against British colonial rule.

A communique issued by the Prime Minister's Office indicated that Netanyahu also brought the American chief executive up to date on the violence in Hebron. *Jay Bushinsky*

## Netanyahu planning trip to Japan, S. Korea

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled to pay official visits to Japan and South Korea in late August in response to long-standing invitations from their respective governments.

The tentative departure date is August 24. Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh said the trip reflects the importance Israel places in these two countries, "mainly from the economic standpoint." *Jay Bushinsky*

## Two killed on roads

Two people were killed in two separate traffic accidents in the Haifa area over the weekend. A 79-year-old woman was run over by a motorbike as she crossed the street in the southern Haifa neighborhood of Ein Hayam. The bike rider, who was traveling from Haifa to Tel Aviv, sustained what were described as "moderate injuries" and was taken to Rambam Hospital.

In the other accident, a man who had stopped his car because of a technical fault and was standing next to it on the road to Haifa between Zichron Ya'acov and Atlit was hit by a passing car.

Three soldiers also were injured when their patrol jeep overturned near Efrat. One sustained moderate injuries, while the other two were lightly hurt. *Itim*

## Two drown over weekend

A 25-year-old man from Nablus drowned yesterday afternoon off Nahariya beach. He was swimming with a group of people and was swept away. When a coast guard boat pulled him out of the water, he was already dead.

A 60-year-old resident of Tiberias drowned in Lake Kinneret over the weekend. He had been swimming in the lake in southern Tiberias, an area which does not have lifeguards. *Itim*

## Committee to set guidelines on digs

The government has established an interministerial committee, headed by an aide to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, that within a week, is to draw up guidelines for the permanent committee that will deal with disputes relating to graves found during digs by archaeologists or contractors.

In recent days, haredim have again raised objections to the continuation of digs that revealed ancient graves, this time during the work on Road No. 1 and Road No. 4 in Jerusalem. The Antiquities Authority is to carry out its own digs to determine whether the roads can continue to be built on their current routes or if the roads will have to be moved. *Itim*

# Moratinos reiterates support for Egyptian initiative

By JAY BUSHINSKY

European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos conferred with the Palestinian Authority's chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, yesterday and expressed Western Europe's concern about the ongoing violence in Hebron.

At the meeting, which took place in Jericho, Moratinos also informed Erekat that the EU "has renewed its support" for the peace initiative being undertaken by Egypt through its special emissary, presidential aide Osama el-Baz. Moratinos advised Erekat of the

EU's position, as stated by him previously to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, the essence of which was that the PA "must do its utmost to reduce tension and defuse the violence," a spokesperson said. Erekat's reply was described as having been similar to Arafat's -

that the PA is doing everything it can to prevent violence. Interviewed shortly before Moratinos's arrival, Erekat said, "I hope we can continue with this peace process because the picture that has been created is very depressing." He was referring to the clashes

in Hebron between local Palestinian residents, IDF troops, and settlers. Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh praised the EU for its commitment to Middle East peace, but contended that the main input has been coming from the US and Egypt at this stage.

## COMMENTARY

# Blowup over pig poster shows frailty of peace process

By JON IMMANUEL

Demands for vengeance following the anti-Islamic cartoon distributed in Hebron last week gained momentum after Friday prayers, with a riot in Hebron and calls in Nablus by a moderate Hamas leader for Jewish blood.

There have been demonstrations since then as far away as Bangladesh. The picture drawn by a right-wing extremist, who subsequently said she wants a holy war, predictably demonstrates that in a peace process of this kind there is no way of bridging the chasm between the two sides in two leaps, or in a series of leaps with time out to scratch one's head and consider changing direction.

For those who want to blow up the process will use every means, and - given the low level of mutual trust now existing - it is easy for individuals or a small group of conspirators to do tremendous damage.

Israelis have trouble understanding the anger that the leaflet has elicited. It appears to most as a crude insult placed under a few doors of a few Moslem merchants, laughable in its stupidity to any mature person. It was not published in a newspaper nor supported by anybody in authority.

Soldiers who did not immediately arrest the woman, but waited only until she stoned Arab cars the following day, mostly saw her as a nuisance. After all, in a democracy sticks and stones can break your bones, but words and leaflets are part of the game.

There is no doubt however that Tatiana Susskin meant to provoke bloodshed by distributing the leaflet and that lives lost as a consequence will be due as much to her as to the misguided enthusiasm of those who would avenge the honor of the prophet.

That places pressure on Israel to punish the woman extremely severely, before lives are lost. However, that is something it is unlikely to do because the penalty for inciting hatred has never been harsh and because to apply it now to someone whose crime is what she calls "artistic free expression" will appear to be cavorting into political considerations and the threat of violence.

One must realize that this is not another Salman Rushdie case in which an artist is persecuted because he presented a view of Mohammed that was unacceptable to a religious authority. Rushdie himself said he had no intention of insulting Mohammed, but sought to interpret him. He, as a Moslem, certainly did not pretend to do so, nor could it be claimed by the wildest protester



Palestinians cheer as an effigy of a haredi burns at a demonstration in Nablus on Friday. (AP)

that he represented anyone but himself. In addition, one can hardly imagine a Moslem insulting Moses in the way Susskin chose to insult Mohammed, because Moses and Abraham and other

Jewish prophets are considered prophets of Islam, too. The picture Susskin distributed was nothing but an exploitation of art no different from the cartoons of Jews published by Julius Streicher in *Der Sturmer*.

## Colombian workers held as suspects in TA slaying

By RAINE MARCUS

Five Colombian workers, suspected of murdering a Tel Aviv kiosk owner and seriously wounding his brother, appeared in the city's Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing last night.

The kiosk owner, 23-year old Boris Petershivili, was shot dead in the city's old central bus station area early Friday evening. His brother Pini was seriously wounded in the abdomen and hand, but hospital officials said last night he was out of danger.

The area of the old central bus station is inhabited mostly by foreign workers from Romania, Africa and Colombia. Police and other authorities have often warned that the influx of such workers, most of whom live in dilapidated conditions and whose passports are confiscated by their employers, had created the potential for violence.

At around 7 p.m. Friday evening, a number of people arrived at the Petershivili's kiosk at the corner of Levinsky Street, known as a meeting place for foreign workers who live in the area. The Petershivili were also known as black market money changers, and police believe the motive for the murder was connected to foreign currency exchange.

This was the first Tel Aviv murder allegedly committed by foreign laborers. Stabbings in the old central bus station area have become commonplace, but this is the first time that a gun was used.

"The Romanians and Africans work hard, are bitter about their conditions and tough employers but are more worried about earning a living than getting involved in violent crime," said one Israeli man in the area. "Note the shooting was allegedly carried out by Colombians."

Another woman, Lily, who lives in the area said that the mass employment of foreign workers is a "time bomb."

"We should find our own internal solutions," she said. "Maybe we should just deport foreign workers before things become worse. Friday's murder was bound to happen sooner or later, and symbolizes something - the start of a new era in which foreign workers are starting to rebel over their conditions."

"It's become like Chicago around here," she added. "I'm frightened to leave the house."

Several shots were fired at the Petershivili brothers, and eyewitnesses said they saw the perpetrators fleeing the scene in the direction of Rehov Nahalat Binyamin.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW MICHAEL YUDELMAN

### They think we're idiots

The outbreak of violence in Hebron, which the security services had been warning of for some time, and the escalation following the pig leaflet distributed in Hebron featured prominently in every newspaper on Friday.

Contrary to the official announcements that the cooperation in security affairs has been resumed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, this has not happened. *Ha'aretz* military commentator Ze'ev Schiff wrote, citing the bloody failure in Hebron and the PA's failure to intervene as proof.

"The pipe bomb thrown at the two IDF paratroopers in Hebron caught the government preoccupied with who should be part of the inner security cabinet, otherwise known as the 'kitchenette,'" wrote Yoel Marcus of *Ha'aretz*.

"The armed conflict we have been warned so much about is suddenly here and the cabinet is plunged in a reshuffle," he said. "Ministers are striking. [Trade and Industry Minister Natan] Sharansky is fuming. [Health Minister Yehoshua] Matza is hesitating. [National Infrastructure Minister Ariel] Sharon is making conditions. [Education Minister Ze'ev] Hammer is demanding and so is Rafal [Agriculture Minister Rafael] Eitan. For two weeks there has been no finance

minister. For three weeks the security cabinet has not met. Levy doesn't answer telephone calls. And [there are] two bleeding soldiers who could say: 'We are the silver platter on which the ministers danced for their security.'"

*Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid took issue with the journalistic cliché "but the citizen isn't an idiot," arguing that the citizen is indeed an idiot, and the ministers know it and make cynical use of it. Otherwise, they would not dare stage their infantile act, whose victims we are, he said.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu knows he is "running on empty" and he and his ministers, Lapid wrote, are conducting a government drama devoid of any content. It consists of hot arguments, mutual recriminations, reshuffles, and feverish gossip behind which there is nothing, no policy, no goals, no direction.

"Only a government which believes the citizen is an idiot, can afford to sink into total inaction, demonstrate universal obtuseness, and lead its nation to colossal catastrophe," Lapid concluded.

**NIS 300,000 severance pay after three years work**  
The appointment of David Levy's closest assistant and confidant, Ya'acov Bardugo, as

head of Mifal Hapayis, one of the most coveted positions in the country, gave the media an opportunity to shed light on the meteoric career of the 32-year-old lawyer from Lod.

Bardugo also received a NIS 210,000 severance or "adjustment" payment from the Economic Committee of the Union of Local Authorities, after a three-year term as director-general.

The cost of the agreement to the company, i.e. the public, is NIS 400,000.

*Yediot Aharonot's* Yael Gvirtz and Yuval Karni asked whether the director-general of a public corporation who moves immediately to another public corporation deserves an "adjustment fee."

What exactly does Bardugo have to adjust to, *Ha'aretz's* Yoel Marcus queried. To laughing all the way to the bank? Geshet's social message is "we take care of our guys." Marcus wrote, noting Bardugo will now be in control of a NIS 2.5 billion budget and enjoy one of the best salaries - along with the most generous benefits - in the state.

Gvirtz and Karni said that the entire board directors of Bardugo's company did not think giving the huge grant to Bardugo was in keeping with proper conduct and report that Bardugo aimed veiled threats at those who objected.

Another question Gvirtz and Karni raised is how Bardugo managed at the same time to direct a company (a full-time job for which he received a NIS 30,000 monthly wage), perform his full-time law internship in an attorney's office, and spend day and night at Levy's side during the latter's primaries and Knesset election campaign.

**Toppling the king**  
*Ha'aretz's* Hanna Kim wrote that Sharon, who is insisting on being appointed a member of the inner security cabinet if he takes the finance portfolio, is not so interested in the Finance Ministry as much as what the post of finance minister will afford him: closer contact with Netanyahu than any other minister has and control over the budgets of all the ministries and the local authorities.

One of the senior coalition members said to Sharon this week that the king (Netanyahu) is naked, Kim wrote.

"My opinion is no different from yours," Sharon replied, according to Kim, "but we can't topple the king."

Bina Barzel of *Yediot Aharonot* revealed how Netanyahu recruited Sharon to save his coalition, when he realized he was in trouble. This was after the Sharon-Abu Mazen meeting leaked to the media and

Netanyahu's attempt to explain it to Levy encountered a silence on the other side of the line.

**Bolshe of the week**  
Communications Minister Limor Livnat won the Bolshevik of the week award, from *Yediot Aharonot's* Gideon Eshet, for preventing Bezeq from lowering prices in the name of holy competition.

Bezeq finally realized it had to compete and lowered its prices, but Livnat urgently sent the business antitrust gendarmes to stop them.

"I'd wager if Bezeq International was privately owned, Livnat would not have dared do something like that. Our Rosa [Luxembourg] came to protect the new competitors, her friends from the private market. It's important to protect the property of Golden Lines and Barak, while the public property, Bezeq, can be thrown into the river," Eshet wrote.

In *Ma'ariv*, Meir Bleich wrote that Livnat told to the Knesset's Economic Committee that she did not permit Bezeq International to lower its prices a year ago, so as not to scare off the competitors.

She thought it wasn't so terrible if we pay exorbitant prices for a year, only to ensure competition in the future, Bleich wrote.

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Alien festival in high gear

# Phnom Penh rocketed as civil war erupts

By ROBIN McDOWELL

PHNOM PENH (AP) — In a surge of violence that threatens to plunge all Cambodia back into civil war, Co-Premier Hun Sen attacked his political rival's forces yesterday and blasted the capital with rockets, killing at least four people.

Hun Sen denied he was staging a coup, but the assault had all the trappings of a power grab: he appeared on TV dressed in fatigues, imposed a curfew, sealed roads, closed the airport and took control of Co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh's military base.

The fighting comes after weeks of rising tension and isolated clashes between Hun Sen's supporters and forces loyal to Ranariddh, the son of Cambodia's king and Hun Sen's supposed partner in the coalition government.

The violence yesterday began when Hun Sen wrested control of a military base near the capital's airport from forces aligned to Ranariddh. Hun Sen's troops also surrounded a second base near the airport and disarmed Ranariddh's supporters.

Wearing camouflage fatigues instead of his usual civilian suit, Hun Sen appeared on national television after the assaults to accuse Ranariddh of "treachery" and of preparing for civil war.

"Prince Norodom Ranariddh and a number of accomplices have illegally imported weapons in an ill intention to provoke a war," Hun Sen said in the broadcast.

Hours later, dozens of rocket and mortar rounds slammed into several parts of Phnom Penh, killing at least four people and wounding 29 others, hospital and military officials said. A four-year-old boy who was hit with shrapnel was among the wounded. A nighttime curfew was imposed in the capital.

Ranariddh's whereabouts were unknown yesterday. He reportedly left the country to visit France on Friday, but the French Foreign Ministry said it had no

information on where he was. Thailand's Foreign Ministry and the Cambodian ambassador to Thailand both denied reports that Ranariddh had diverted his trip to Bangkok.

At least eight rockets rained down on a residential district on the west side of Phnom Penh, apparently aimed at the residence of Chao Sambath, a senior army official aligned to Ranariddh.

Few people ventured into the streets, afraid their neighborhood might be next for a stray mortar round. Where the fighting occurred, residents scattered for cover, fleeing by foot, bicycle or motorbike.

Armored personnel carriers roamed the streets as rival forces clashed with small arms fire in some neighborhoods, pinning residents down in their homes and shops.

Roads from the west leading into Phnom Penh were sealed by Hun Sen's troops. The airport was closed by the end of the day.

Random mortar and rocket explosions could be heard elsewhere in the city.

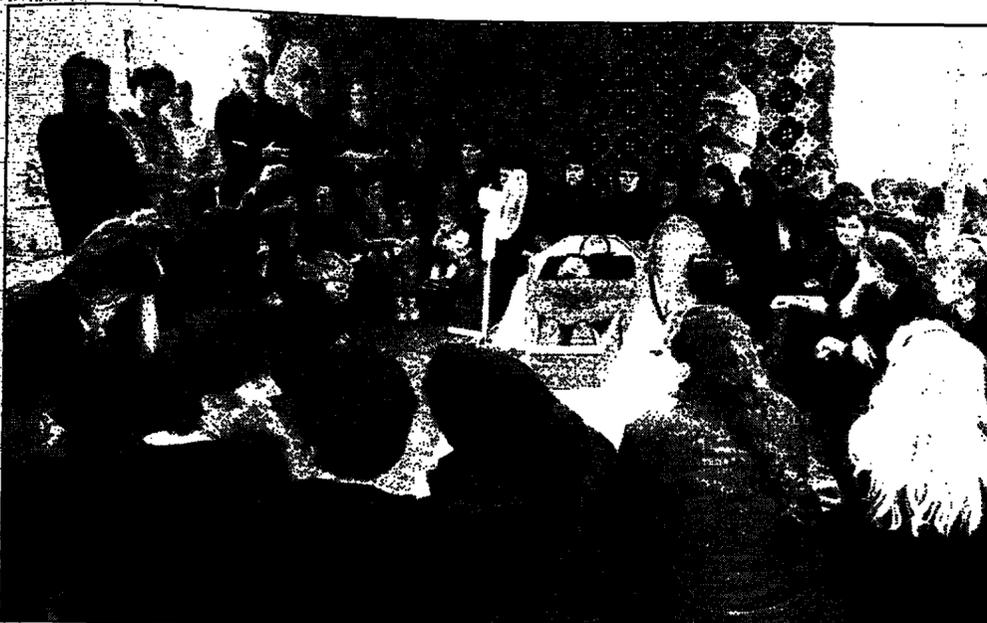
With Ranariddh out of the country, Hun Sen's actions yesterday clearly looked like a coup. His defense minister, however, denied talk of ousting Ranariddh from power.

"This is not at all any coup d'etat," said Co-Defense Minister Tea Banh, who backs Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party.

His counterpart from Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party was also out of the country.

Foreign diplomats met with Tea Banh yesterday to warn him away from increasing the violence.

"Our citizens are all here to help Cambodia," U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn told The Associated Press. "They can't afford to be in danger and it won't be understood if there is fighting and foreign citizens are put at risk." Shop keepers, hearing the explosions from a distance, scurried to shutter their stores and looked for shelter. A military patrol was seen running down a street.



Relatives and friends sit around the coffin of a 20-year-old man who died Thursday when shooting erupted in front of the central electoral commission building in Tirana, Albania during the monarchists' protest against the vote counting.

## Socialists declared winners in Albania

News agencies

TIRANA — Albania's ex-communist Socialist party was yesterday declared the winner of crucial elections aimed at ending months of violence and anarchy.

With 40 out of the 155 seats still to be decided after last weekend's first round, the Central Electoral Commission said the Socialists had won over 80 seats, giving them a comfortable majority.

The other main party, the Democratic Party of President Sali Berisha which ruled for five years until it was replaced by a national unity government appointed last March as the country slid towards anarchy, won around 20 seats.

A total of 34 seats are due to be decided in a runoff today in districts where no candidate managed to win 50 percent of the vote.

Around seven other seats are still to be counted.

The Socialists, reformed heirs of the hard-line communists who ruled Europe's poorest country for four decades, won 61 of the 115 seats contested under a straight majority vote. They also won 53 percent of the vote for 40 seats allocated under a proportional system, giving them a further 21 seats.

Tension was rising across the country yesterday on the eve of the run-offs as Berisha's party urged all its supporters to attend the funeral of a party member killed in a rally this week.

The Democratic Party called for a march through central Tirana with the body of the dead man yesterday evening.

The man, in his early 20s, was killed on Thursday when shooting broke out during a rally by royal-

ists called to protest against alleged vote-rigging in a referendum last Sunday which rejected a return of the monarchy.

A statement from the Democrats called on supporters to gather at the house of the dead man and march with the coffin to central Skanderbeg Square, where they would be addressed by senior party members and self-proclaimed king Leka.

The Democrats and monarchists appeared to be working together since both were defeated in their respective plebiscites.

Berisha, in power since 1992, has admitted defeat in the elections and says he will step down once a new leftist government is installed.

In what was seen as a snub to Berisha, who once enjoyed the support of the West but has come under criticism for his authoritari-

an rule, US President Bill Clinton has invited Socialist Prime Minister Bashkim Fino to attend next week's NATO summit in Madrid.

The funeral march, with its potential for further violence, threatened to add further delays to the elections called earlier this year to end months of violence and anarchy sparked by the collapse of pyramid savings schemes.

Rival political parties have blamed each other for Thursday's killing, which happened when shooting started after the royalists marched to the central electoral commission.

Democrats said the Socialists were to blame for dithering on the appointment of an interior minister this week and for misleading statements about the outcome of the referendum.

## Bhutto's husband charged with killing her brother

KARACHI (AP) — Ten months after Benazir Bhutto's estranged brother died in a hail of police gunfire outside his Karachi home, a judge yesterday formally charged her husband with ordering the killing.

In a special court set up at Karachi's central prison, District Court Judge Shah Nawaz Awan charged Asif Ali Zardari and 21 former officials with murder and conspiracy to murder Murtaza Bhutto.

Murtaza, 43, ran a breakaway faction of his sister's Pakistan People's Party until he was gunned down last September, six weeks before Ms. Bhutto was dismissed as prime minister on charges of corruption and economic mismanagement.

Zardari, a minister in her disgraced government and the man widely blamed for her downfall, has been jailed since her dismissal last November.

Those charged alongside him included Syed Abdullah Shah, the former chief minister for southern Sindh province, and Shoaib Suddle, the former police chief for the Sindh capital of Karachi.

Shah and three police officials also face lesser charges for failing to show up at the hearing, Judge Awan said.

Ms. Bhutto has accused President Farooq Leghari, the man who sacked her, of ordering her brother's

murder in an attempt to unseat her. Her party was routed in February general elections.

Emerging from the makeshift courtroom in the prison following the 45-minute hearing, Zardari remained adamant that the killings were part of a conspiracy to bring down his wife's government.

"I never ordered or had any involvement in Murtaza's killing. Only God knows who killed him," Zardari told reporters.

People's Party spokesman Awais Bangash called the trial a sham and challenged the judge to provide evidence to back the charges.

But in the streets outside the courtroom, a dozen supporters of Murtaza Bhutto waved colorful portraits of their slain leader and demanded swift justice.

"The wheels of justice have been slow in churning Zardari and his accomplices," shouted Arif Awan, a local activist with the People's Party faction Murtaza led. "My wish is that all of them be hanged today," he said.

After the hearing, the demonstrators traveled by donkey cart to Karachi's downtown Press Club and continued to shout slogans demanding Zardari's immediate execution. Police dispersed the demonstrators peacefully after about one hour.

## Gay minister, gay pride

LONDON (Reuters) — Tens of thousands of people converged on London yesterday for a gay pride festival being attended for the first time by Britain's first openly homosexual government minister.

In a show of support for the annual event, new Labor Prime Minister Tony Blair sent his national heritage minister — gay MP Chris Smith — to represent him at a march through central London followed by a pop concert.

Smith and fellow gay Labor MP Stephen Twigg were due to address an expected 300,000 people at the rally.

"The new prime minister has reaffirmed his commitment to gay and lesbian rights. The 60,000 people at the march in central London will be cheering, not jeering, as they pass Downing Street," said a spokesman for the Gay Pride festival.

Thousands of gays and lesbians from as far afield as Brazil and the United States thronged the streets, blowing whistles, dancing to samba bands and dressed in outrageous costumes. They called for the lowering of the homosexual age of consent to 16 from 18 to bring it in line with heterosexuals.

## Alien festival in high gear

ROSSELL, New Mexico (AP) — Tourists and true believers turned out in the hundreds for a service at a remote desert ranch to remember what some say was a UFO crash hushed up by the military 50 years ago.

Some UFO buffs say the crash took place on what is now the Corn Ranch, where a new plaque said: "We don't know who they were; we don't know why they came; we only know they changed our view of the universe."

Ranch owner Miller "Hub" Corn said he wasn't certain about the so-called Roswell Incident. Still, he took hundreds on \$15 tours of the sweltering, dusty spot of desert where believers say a spaceship crashed, killing several aliens on board. Dozens more paid \$90 to camp there this weekend.

Corn dedicated a dirt patch on the ranch as a "universal sacred site" on Friday.

"It would be arrogant of humanity to think of ourselves as the only life form," said Richard Saiser, 54, of Albuquerque, dressed in a uniform from the futuristic Star Trek television show.

## Kabul airport bombed

KABUL (Reuters) — An opposition warplane dropped a bomb on Kabul airport, hitting a building occupied by fighters of the Taleban militia, airport sources said yesterday.

Red tracers from anti-aircraft fire criss-crossed the sky as Taleban gunmen took aim at the lone jet.

"One bomb landed inside the perimeter of the air defense part of the airport and hit a building which was full of Taleban. An unknown number of Taleban were killed or wounded," one source at the airport said in the morning. A Taleban airport official would not comment on casualties, but confirmed that a bomb had hit the air defense section adjacent to the airport used by military and civilian aircraft.

"The sky was lit by flares apparently dropped by the plane," said a man who lives near the airport. "Seconds after we went out to see what was happening, we heard a bomb explosion." The air strike followed Taleban bombing raids on Maimana, capital of the northeastern province of Faryab, held by forces loyal to northern opposition leader General Abdul Malik.

A spokesman for Malik, General Humayun Fauzi, said Taleban raids had killed 90 people in

Maimana within 48 hours, including 40 Taleban prisoners held in the city jail.

Fauzi said two Taleban officials, Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammed Ghous and Civil Aviation Minister Maulvi Akhtar Mohammed Mansoor, were among 30 wounded in the raids.

One bomb had also landed near a mosque and one hit a clinic, wounding women and children, Fauzi said.

A Taleban official, Wakil Ahmad, confirmed that Taleban planes had bombed Maimana, but said they had hit only military targets. He denied that Malik was holding Taleban prisoners in Maimana, saying they had been shifted to another town, Shibergan, about 120 km to the northeast.

An independent military source based in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said Taleban aircraft had bombed Maimana on Wednesday and Friday, causing no casualties.

"There was one bomb near a school, one near a hospital and one near the road outside," the source said. "Two of the bombs failed to go off and one did." He said opposition reports of heavy Taleban and civilian casualties "sound like propaganda to me."

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## Boldly going

This year's American Independence Day almost became International Space Day - Pathfinder landed on Mars, the shuttle Columbia circled the earth, Russia launched a cargo vessel laden with equipment for the damaged Mir station. And on the lighter side, thousands of true believers in extra terrestrial life gathered in Roswell, New Mexico to celebrate 50 years since the "flying saucer crash," which they believe in, and the authorities mock.

In a few hundred years' time, historians among our descendants may plough through the mass of information generated by our age in order to solve the riddle of why the space exploration effort became buried by trivia and failed to spark contemporary mass imagination. The Pathfinder mission is one of the wonders of our age, yet most Americans - indeed most of humanity - were unaware it had been flying to Mars until the news suddenly burst onto television screens that a landing was in progress.

The mission of Pathfinder and the Sojourner planet rover vividly illustrates that no other nation on earth is anywhere near the United States in imaginative high technology. The Mars landing was a fine and appropriate birthday present for the nation that put Neil Armstrong on the moon and undoubtedly will put the first person (hopefully a woman) on Mars.

It is hard to believe that the stunning pictures beamed across 500 million km. of space yesterday are the first from Mars in 21 years, since the 1976 Viking mission. A project scientist commented yesterday when he saw the red rocky landscape and salmon colored sky of our favorite planetary neighbor: "There are many wondrous things to see and many wondrous things to do." It is obvious how slowly we have been doing them since the moon landings. It is also obvious (not just with hindsight - most knew it at the time) that the drive behind early space exploration was US-Soviet competition, not the Star Trek idealism of boldly going where

none have gone before.

That competition is over, the Russian space effort is distinctly creaky and rust-encrusted, the Europeans may have the technology but not the social will to join in. That leaves the United States alone in the field but the pace has slowed dramatically. When the Eagle landed on the moon, it seemed perfectly feasible to project that a moon base, a major space station and a manned Mars landing would all be completed within 30 years. It now seems dubious if they will be achieved in the next 30.

The space race between the superpowers has not been transformed into the race for space, and it may not be in our lifetimes, despite all the apparent high activity this weekend with Russian and American spaceships flying in all directions. The time scale for man's expansion into space may well have expanded from decades to centuries. There is little doubt that sometime in the next 500 years Mars will become to our descendants what the New World was to our forefathers - the next frontier - but the very idea of space exploration remains controversial because of its cost.

The price tag for putting a couple of humans on a desert planet half a billion kilometers away tugs uneasily at the conscience when pictures of the wretched conditions much of the earth's population still lives in roll across our television screens. And since the money must still be allocated in large part by an elected government, there are plenty of voters to suggest a lot better use can be made of such vast sums. The enthusiasts of course dismiss this as bleak and unimaginative bean-counting. What about the vision thing?

There is no easy answer, and the final story of the journey into space remains beyond our times as well as our means. But today we can be grateful to the US scientists who allow us to marvel at one of our semi-autonomous creations exploring Mars for us and telling us what it sees. That is scientific miracle enough for now. And the cost was worth it.

## Squabbling Serbs

We have had a blessed respite from the murderous squabbling of the Serbs and Bosnian Serbs with their neighbors, but they have returned to the headlines squabbling among themselves.

It would be nice to call a plague on all their temples and let them get on with it, but the conflict in the Bosnian Serb republic between President Biljana Plavsic and hard-heads taking their orders from the indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic is threatening to derail the Dayton Treaty peace effort. Karadzic of course is banned from holding public office by the international NATO peacekeepers and should not even be involved, but it has been clear for some time he has been attempting to run the Serb show behind Plavsic's back.

The rest of the world has little interest in the machinations of Serb politicians but two issues force the international community to pay attention. This petty power struggle must not be allowed to break the Dayton peace agreement, and Karadzic and his indicted military chiefs

should now be placed under arrest and swiftly transported to The Hague court to answer for their despicable behavior in the Bosnian war.

It is true Plavsic had a reputation for being perhaps more hard-line and anti-Muslim than then-president Karadzic. But there is a difference: she is not a war criminal, and since the Dayton peace accord, she has shown that whatever her political views, she lives in the real pragmatic world of modern politics where attracting foreign aid and investment is more important than attracting attention for outlandish policies. It is not a lesson Karadzic has learned.

Her decision to dissolve parliament conforms with the constitution of Srpska - the Serb part of the dysfunctional Bosnian federation. It follows that Karadzic has no respect either for the constitution or the peace - he went so far as to threaten NATO police. It is not Plavsic who needs to be removed from power, but Karadzic, who should be removed from the country - and the sooner the better.



## Charity case no more

Many American Jews have been on United Jewish Appeal missions to the Jewish state. They are wonderful experiences, and often change people's lives.

The emphasis is on sensory overload. The mission rushes from place to place as moving moments set their hearts afire.

The end of this process is a "caucus" in which mission members step forward to pledge their financial support for the great work of the UJA in Israel and abroad. It's a formula that works like a charm to get donations.

But recently, I had a unique opportunity to take a different kind of "mission" to Israel. I spent the better part of a week trailing around with the official trade mission that Connecticut Governor John Rowland led to Israel.

The governor was taken to important historic spots and had the opportunity to put a note in the Western Wall, plant a tree in a Jewish National Fund forest and place a wreath at Yad Vashem.

But that was not why the group came to Israel. The two dozen businessmen and women brought by Gov. Rowland did not come to Israel to be reduced to tears by the sight of the blue-and-white flag flying over Masada, and then give money.

Instead, they came to take money out of the Jewish state. And they were welcomed with open arms.

Following in the footsteps of similar missions led by other Northeast Republican governors, these manufacturers, high-tech experts, legal eagles and financial types were all there to focus on how business with Israel could make money and produce jobs for Connecticut.

They were matched up in scores of business meetings with Israeli businessmen and women with the same motive: profit.

The meetings were largely productive, and held great promise of increased trade. That this will bolster Israel's political position as well as its economic status is just the dividend on the investment.

The match was summed up in an exchange between the governor and Prime Minister Netanyahu when they met and discussed the

JONATHAN S. TOBIN

importance of promoting joint ventures in areas such as biomedical research and telecommunications.

"You've got the skilled workers," Rowland told the prime minister. "But we don't have the marketing skills," Netanyahu replied. "We have people who produce, but the ideas don't get off the shelf."

Just to make the "mission" even more different, a number of the

### Poor Israel looking to rich America for sustenance? Times have changed

Americans delegation were looking to find Israelis to invest in and open up businesses in Connecticut! In fact, I learned that venture capital is already flowing in both directions.

A WEEK spent with American entrepreneurs trying to find ways into the Israeli market ought to be enough to convince anyone weaned on the notion of poor Israel looking to rich America for sustenance that times have changed.

Israel has its share of problems. It still has a relatively large population of recent immigrants who need to be cared for. It still has massive defense spending needs, despite the "progress" toward peace that has done little to ameliorate anti-Jewish attitudes among most Arabs in the autonomous areas and the rest of the Middle East.

Most of all, it is far too dependent on free American money to finance a bureaucratic economic model which resists free market reforms at all costs.

Netanyahu has promised to succeed where his Labor predecessors failed to free up Israel's inefficient economy from the constraints imposed on it by the old socialist system he inherited. So far, the results are meager.

Israel is still a country where a huge union/business conglomerate, the Histadrut, has too much

economic power and too much political influence.

And both major parties are still patronage machines devoted to preserving a statist stranglehold on the economy, one that stifles the entrepreneurial spirit and bloats the country's annual budget with (if you'll excuse the expression) a load of political pork that would choke many a US Congressman.

Yet for all its problems, you'd have to be blind not to see a bustling economy, flowing with venture capital.

Those American businesses and chain stores like McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts, Ace Hardware and Blockbuster Video that American tourists are so upset about seeing in Jerusalem are not there because their owners are Zionists. They are there because they perceive an opportunity.

And Israelis want them because they like to have as wide a choice of cheap goods, services and fast food as anyone else on this planet.

American Jews still need to support the process of absorption of new immigrants. But given the urgent domestic needs of American Jewry, it is clear that more and more Jewish fundraising dollars must be spent at home, and preferably on Jewish education.

Netanyahu has faith that the process can be entirely reversed.

He told Rowland that in "three years, you won't recognize" Israel because of the privatization and free market reforms he will put into effect. He believes this will lead not only to more allya from the former Soviet Union but immigration from the West too, including the US.

That may make him the last Zionist running around loose, since he is first Israeli I've heard in years speak about getting American Jews to move to Israel.

If the prime minister can really plant a stake in the heart of Israeli socialism and turn it into a haven for free markets and entrepreneurs, maybe the Zionist enterprise will stop being a charity case and become the self-sufficient nation Theodor Herzl envisioned 100 years ago.

The writer is executive editor of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger.

## Head start

WILLIAM SAFIRE

A marriageable Ethiopian woman falls in love with a young Ethiopian man in Israel. Both are Jewish, but their parents refuse approval of their marriage because family records show they share a great-great-grandparent.

Years later, she chooses a white European Jew. This time, her family elders approve; that's because Ethiopian Jewish tradition, while forbidding marriage within an extended family that can number 1,000, finds marrying a Jew outside that family acceptable.

Nonsensical? On the contrary, by instinctively adhering to such strict rules, the tribe of Israelites that wandered into Africa almost 3,000 years ago was able to maintain its religious and cultural identity without degrading its genetic pool.

The tribe's survival with tradition intact was near-miraculous. The rescue of its members by Israel, with US airborne help, from starvation and persecution in Africa as falashas - "outsiders" - was inspiring. Now that they are falashas no more, how are the black Jews faring?

They are not starving; they are not oppressed; they have roofs over their heads. Some serve in the army; one was elected to the Knesset. But most of the 60,000 Ethiopian Jews, more than half under 18, are not doing well.

They start from way behind. Almost all arrived illiterate, which made it hard to find work. Fathers, often a generation older than their wives, were not raised to be go-getters. Parents spoke no Hebrew and could not help children with homework; as a result, Ethiopian immigrant pupils come to school prepared at about half the rate of other Israelis.

Not surprisingly, only about 12 percent make it through 12th grade, well below the figure for other Israelis. Dropouts are on the rise, followed by youth gangs and petty crime.

Uri Tamari, 28, director of the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, told me last month in Israel that "when kids can't keep up in school, they join a gang and roam the streets. They have to belong to

### What Ethiopian Jews need is a red-tape-cutter, a 35-year-old Ariel Sharon

something." What happens when the Education Ministry is accused of assigning them to weak schools and not supplying books and materials? Defenselessness reigns; a bureaucrat proudly points to an uncut budget and issues a release warning critics "not to keep publicizing... weaknesses and failures."

RABBI Micha Odenheimer of Jerusalem has a better idea. He calls for Head Start education starting at age two; a measurable, accountable target of literacy by the end of third grade; intensive after-school courses in mathematics and computers; integration of Ethiopian kids into high-level high schools near home, and a hundred more youth workers like Tamari to rescue dropouts.

This requires more than money. Urgently needed is a public-private task force, reporting to the prime minister, run full time by a red-tape-cutter and china-breaker on the order of a 35-year-old Ariel Sharon.

Whenever I try this on Binyamin Netanyahu, he gives me a you-bet, great-idea, followed by no follow-up. Natan Sharansky, head of the Ministerial Committee on Absorption, shows little grasp of the danger or the opportunity, and his constituency resents extra aid given other immigrants.

A council of Israeli industrialists, alarmed by Ethiopian suicides in the IDF, is willing to help with job training and work opportunities, but needs coordination. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in New York knows what is needed, but isn't pushy enough.

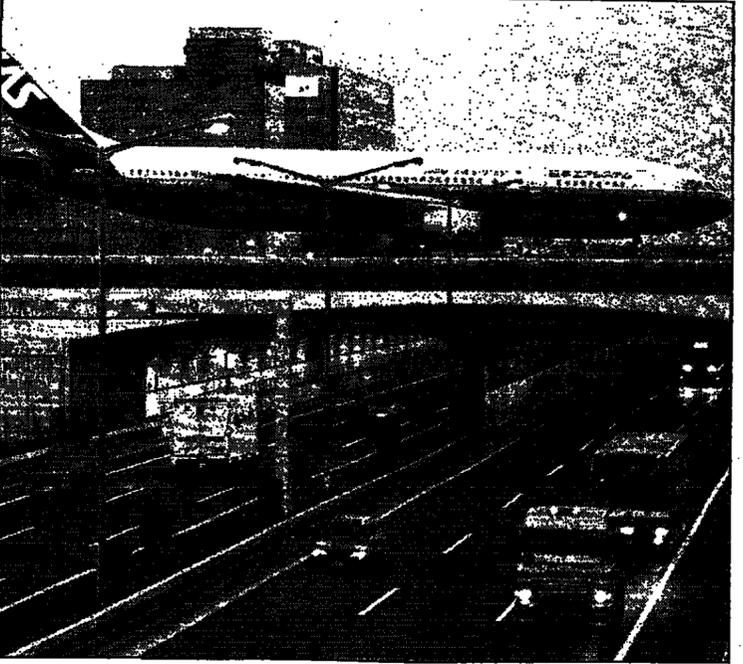
Doesn't anybody see the downside risk? The Jew who discriminates against Ethiopian immigrants is antisemitic. To all the immediate dangers Israel faces, add making the old American mistake of allowing the creation of an impoverished, welfare-dependent underclass.

And doesn't anybody see the upside potential? The Jewishness of these black Africans is Israel's antidote to racism. Of all the chances to be a light unto the nations - not merely to win diplomatic friends in Africa, but to bring together blacks and Jews everywhere - no opportunity is riper for Israeli Jews and Arabs than to ensure equal opportunity for their Ethiopian compatriots.

Said Shula Mola, 25, an Ethiopian Jew determined to become a teacher: "Too many people think we cannot do well. They should expect more of us."

(New York Times)

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



A plane travels along an unusual bridge to get to its runway at Tokyo's airport. The bridge connects the runway with the terminal.

(AP)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FOREIGN WORKERS

Sir - I refer to the articles about cracking down on illegal foreign workers in *The Jerusalem Post* of June 13. These aliens are no less human than we are even if they are illegal. Hunting them down on the streets of Tel Aviv in such a rash and undignified manner as described by Larry Derfer leaves much to be desired from a state like Israel which still has the largest number of its citizens scattered all over the world.

As a people and as a government we should try to accommodate foreigners as much as we can; of course, without jeopardizing our national security. But do these people really threaten our sovereignty, our security or even our labor market? The nature of work they do is not done by our citizens or else nobody would have hired them. The fact is the Israeli people need them, even though the government thinks otherwise.

If the government has decided that we don't want them around, it can go about repatriating them in some more decent and humane manner. For instance, they could allow them a period of time to leave the country before starting a man-hunt, giving them a reasonable time to make arrangements for their families. Allow some of them who qualify to stay legally. This would be a more welcome policy than rounding them up in some form of concentration camp.

SAMUEL DAVID  
Tel Aviv.

### APPALLED

Sir - I was appalled to read in your paper about the events which occurred at the Western Wall on Shavuot. As an American Jew who was raised in the tradition of freedom of religion and the separation of church and state, I cannot understand how the Jewish state can tolerate the attack on people who only wished to pray at the holiest site of Judaism, by a group of hooligans who call themselves Jews, as far as I am concerned haredim are not Jews at all, but members of a group which sanitizes the definition of a cult, not a religion. (Brainwashed, wearing identical clothing, uncritical obedience to a leader and total intolerance for all non-members of the cult.)

But what makes this event even more odious was the refusal of the police to stop and arrest the perpetrators of this attack which violated every civil rights law of the State of Israel. I assume that the police acted on behalf of the government which has knuckled under to the outrageous actions and demands of the haredim, for political reasons. I have been a heavy contributor to many organizations such as the United Jewish Appeal, the Jerusalem Fund, Magen David Adom and others. To express my protest, I have decided to suspend all further contributions, until the Israeli government changes its policy towards the haredim who, I believe, are a threat to the survival of the State of Israel.

FRED. R. STEVEN  
Silver Spring, Maryland.

### THE MISSIONARY BILL

Sir - The "anti-missionary" bill pending in the Knesset affects us Jews more in the Diaspora than our brothers who live in Israel.

Much of the bill is based on the sad fact that Israeli Jews know very little about Christianity. I have shown around young and highly educated Israeli relatives in Europe's fine art galleries, and was surprised at their complete ignorance of Christian mythology. Shouldn't we know that, by their religion, the Christians are commanded to proselytize? Do supporters of the bill in the Knesset think that they can legislate and make the lion eat grass? Should we be afraid of comparing the uplifting spirituality, moral code, social imperatives and pristine beauty of our religion to anyone else's? Such fear can originate only from ignorance.

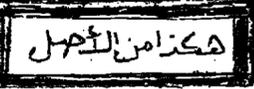
Education is needed, not legislation. Israel is, and should remain, part of the Western civilization for which Judaism has provided the oldest root and one of the strongest. Rome has admitted that God's covenant with the Jewish people is still valid.

DR. G.G. PINTER  
Ellicott City, Maryland.

### RESIDENCE

Sir - If Israel is the "fulfillment" of Dr. Emanuel Tanay's "dreams" (Letters, June 25), then what is he doing living in Michigan, USA?

DEBBIE GOODRICHE  
Kfar Mordechai.



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BY DAVID STEIN  
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Schwartz, 345 pp.

# Ex-tobacco official enjoys the aftermath of the deal

By DAVID STOUT

Jeffrey Wigand, the highest-ranking executive ever to turn against the tobacco industry, was in high spirits after antismoking forces and cigarette makers reached a settlement.

"I feel great," said Wigand, the onetime head of research at Brown & Williamson, after fleeing the hot lights and microphones of a hotel news conference for a quiet corner and a pitcher of ice water.

"Great for myself, for the American public and for the kids." If he could go back in time, would he work for a tobacco company again? "No." If he had known what he would go through, would he again become a traitor to the industry that once paid him so handsomely? "Yes."

The settlement announced in June had reportedly been delayed while Brown & Williamson, the No. 3 tobacco maker, refused a central demand of the antismoking forces: that Wigand be protected from legal action by the company, where he directed research from 1989 to 1993.

Under legal advice, he would

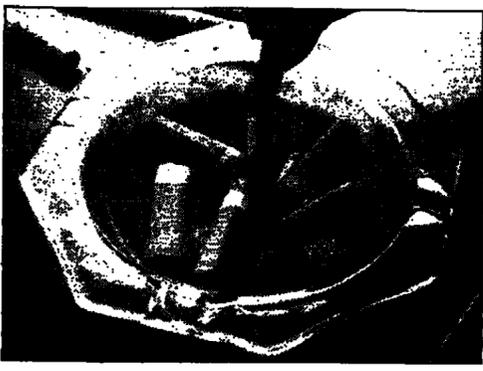
not comment on how the settlement protects him from his old employer. But he looked and acted like a man at peace with himself, not one worried about being hauled into court by tobacco-company lawyers.

Later, state attorneys-general said Wigand's lawyers had reached an accord with tobacco-industry executives that gives him legal protection.

Wigand caused a sensation, and provided precious ammunition for tobacco foes, when he contended that, among other things, Brown & Williamson executives had long been aware that nicotine is addictive and that the company's chief executive lied when he denied that to a congressional committee.

Wigand, a biochemist, also publicly accused Brown & Williamson of manipulating nicotine levels in cigarettes, despite its executives' testimony to the contrary, and of suppressing research on safer cigarettes.

After leaving Brown & Williamson, which sought to discredit him as an arrogant and untrustworthy employee and



Jeffrey Wigand provided precious ammunition for tobacco foes, when he contended that tobacco company executives had long been aware that nicotine is addictive. (Robert Cohen)

With those troubles behind him, Wigand, at 54, has a new career — as a teacher of biology, chemistry, physics and Japanese at a Louisville high school. That job presumably pays him a bit less than his previous one, but he would not go back to his old life even if he could. "I make a difference every day as a teacher," he said.

Making his way through the hotel lobby, Wigand walked by Ralph Nader. The consumer advocate said that tobacco executives settled partly out of fear of going to prison for perjury, and that the industry interests got off too easily. Those lawyers who were brave enough to take on the cigarette makers on behalf of sick and dying clients are the real heroes of the struggle, he said.

So is Wigand, Nader said, calling him "a great man." Unaware of Nader's praise, Wigand stepped into the heat of the afternoon as someone offered to buy him a drink.

It would be a drink unaccompanied by a cigarette. Wigand has made another, more personal farewell to tobacco. (AP)

## HEADS 'N' TAILS

# The feline equation

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Cats make excellent pets, but there are a few things cat owners should know about their feline friends. If you find your cat repeatedly being chased around the garden, it could mean two things: either your cat is encroaching on another cat's territory or she is giving off sexual signals to the toms in the area, or both.

The first case will sort itself out when your cat finds its natural place in the pecking order. In the latter case, having your cat spayed should solve the problem. However, some spayed cats still have a certain level of semi-ovarian function.

Before you run off to your vet to complain, you should know that it might not be entirely his fault! Mammals, including humans, dogs and cats, sometimes suffer from a condition called endometriosis whereby ovarian tissue spreads throughout



Animals can transmit diseases to humans. But kissing a cat is no riskier than kissing another person. (Hanoach Guttmann)

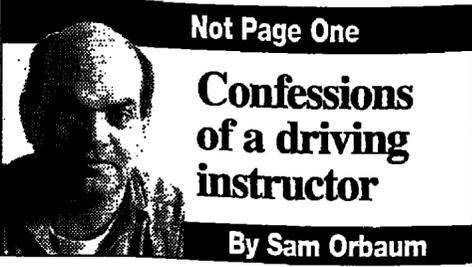
the pelvic area. Even though the vet has removed the cat's ovaries, there is still enough tissue to trigger the semi-oestrus response that will cause male cats to pursue the female. Giving your cat a hormone injection twice a year should stop these unwanted periods of attraction, but consult your vet about this.

A devoted grandmother from Haifa asked me a question about

her kibbutz grandchildren and their pet cat. She says that everyone in the family loves the cat, but when she sees the children actually kissing the cat, she worries that they will get diseases.

There is no denying that pet animals can, in certain circumstances, transmit diseases to humans and I personally discourage people from kissing their pets. I also advise both adults and children to thoroughly wash their hands after handling their pets.

But when all is said and done, while animal-engendered infections do occur, the greatest single cause of illness among humans is contact with other humans. Children have a 20 to 50 percent greater chance of contracting an infection or a contagious disease from other children in the kindergarten or school than they ever have of getting an illness from a pet, even if they sometimes, in exuberance, kiss it!



Not Page One Confessions of a driving instructor By Sam Orbaum

At last, an answer to the conundrum that has baffled me for years: when a driving instructor is tested, who drives?

Now I know. Nobody. Driving instructors are not tested.

"Never," says Nira Ben-David, a Jerusalem instructor. "In my 12 years doing this work, no supervisor has ever checked to see if I can teach. They only have statistics: how many of my students pass or fail."

"In the country's entire history, once, I think in 1991, teachers were given a four-hour refresher course. They don't really know the new laws."

That's not the worst of it.

There are two ways to become a teacher: either you spend thousands of shekels and take a three-year course, or you qualify after a year's experience as a tester — which costs nothing and requires no training.

To become a tester, it's sufficient to spend a week observing another tester. After a year, he gets, for free, a license to be an instructor. Without learning.

recalls hearing of one case where "a student offered a bribe to the tester, who drove him directly to the police station." Taught him a good lesson.

Another shady practice is *kablanut* (lessons on a contractual basis), whereby teachers accept a lump sum to get the student through the ordeal, no matter how many hours are needed.

With this arrangement, the teacher hurries the student through to the test, and then bribes the tester to facilitate the rest. "Sometimes the student doesn't even know the tester was bribed," Ben-David says. She is quick to assure that "only a very small percentage of teachers do this. As far as I know, since the scandal of a few years ago, it's not done anymore in Jerusalem."

Berg and Ben-David, in separate interviews, both said that palm-greasing is much more prevalent in the Arab sector, where it is a common way of life. In addition, Berg says, Arabs feel disadvantaged in their chances of passing a test, which increases the *baksheesh* incentive.

"Arabs might offer NIS 20,000,

## You'd have to be nuts to endure the nuisance of lessons and tests if a well-placed bribe can get you into the fast lane — especially if you're a fast driver.

Without knowing how to teach. "It's ridiculous: of course, most people say why should I spend three years and NIS 10,000 for the course?"

Now we come to the worst of it. The latest driver's ed scam — in which testers and teachers in Haifa took payoffs to put murderously unfit truck drivers on the road — followed similar scandals about five and 10 years ago in Jerusalem, proving not enough was done to overhaul a system that, everyone agrees, stinks.

However, Ben-David gives some credit. "One of the best things the ministry did was to improve the level of driving, and the way driving is taught — making the tests harder, forcing students to take more lessons and acquire more knowledge."

"Yeah, changes were made after the last scandal," says highly respected Jerusalem instructor Shmuel Berg. "The changes made things worse. The new testers were not professional, untrained. And because of the controversy, they were afraid to let anyone get a license. Testing was made much harder, and as a result, many, many students failed. You had to be an expert Egged driver to pass a test."

Berg estimates five percent of students pass on the first attempt. "When people fail again and again, naturally, they look for another option." Especially when they have to wait weeks or months before their next test.

You'd have to be nuts to endure the nuisance of lessons and tests if a well-placed bribe can get you into the fast lane — especially if you're a bad driver with no hope of passing the test.

Is that why Israeli drivers are so bad?

Ben-David, who specializes in women student drivers (no jokes, please), does a U-turn. "This will surprise you: they're really not so bad. Because the tests are much harder now, they're better than new drivers used to be."

Or, perhaps, they used to be a lot worse. "When I was a new driver, 20 years ago," Ben-David recalls, "my test was a joke. It was after seven lessons of 25 minutes each, and I passed my first test. I couldn't drive uphill, I didn't learn highway driving, or even night driving. I couldn't drive, yet I passed." Now, the minimum is 28 40-minute lessons, and a much harder testing procedure. "Another incredible thing: drivers aren't retested. Ever."

"I wouldn't say Israelis are bad drivers," Berg concurs. "We have a nervous temperament, we worry about a thousand things. And the roads are bad." The worst drivers, he says, are the cabbies.

Both Ben-David and Berg (the latter is a pseudonym) vehemently insist they would never accept bribes. "Never even been offered one," says Ben-David with a laugh.

"Thank God, I can afford not to," says Berg. "But I truly can't say what I would do if I needed money and someone offered me a lot to get him through. A tester who has a NIS 5,000 overdraft and he's offered NIS 20,000? He won't refuse."

Not necessarily. Ben-David

or even more. Jews, a lot less, maybe NIS 1,000 or NIS 5,000. Arabs have less confidence in themselves, and in the system," Berg says.

"Once you do it, once you take a bribe, you're in someone else's hands," says Berg. "And it becomes a habit. By word of mouth, others come expecting the same deal, and you can't say no."

His solution: put the testing process on to the free market. "You can trust people to be honest more if they're working in the private sector. The testers would be paid a much better salary. They'd be afraid of losing their jobs."

There's keen competition among driving schools and their mostly freelance teachers. "You can get a reputation for too many failed students. There's pressure to put bad drivers on the roads to get more students," Berg charges.

Which brings us to instructor Michael Aviv.

"I paid bribe money. I had to, or my students would have failed." Aviv (not his real name) was arrested in the 1985 scandal, in which tester Moshe Shaked went to the police and turned state's witness, incriminating half a dozen instructors he had coerced.

Two teachers were imprisoned; Aviv got off with three months of community service.

"Shaked was really the only tester demanding bribes. He used to fail everybody, and then when he came to me asking for a 'loan,' I understood. It wasn't very much, really: I paid him 500 shekels — not from the students themselves, but from my own pocket."

His reputation for student success was at stake, Aviv says. "He had me against the wall. If I hadn't paid him off, he would have failed all my students. I saw he could screw them over."

Aviv is still teaching. And Shaked?

Well, what do you suppose happens to a corruption master, blackmailer and big-time fink? "He stabbed people in the back, sent 'em to jail; he should be in the garbage," Aviv sneers. "But he became a policeman."

No!

"Yeah. A cop. They rewarded him for cooperating. Now he works in the Jerusalem police, in the minorities division, in charge of Arabs."

## DEAR RUTHIE

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, After my wife died, five years ago, I couldn't bring myself to see other women socially. I spent as much time as I could with my children — two of whom were in high school at the time, and a third in the army. I was 45 at the time of my wife's death. Now, at 50, I have begun to enjoy

myself socially. I seem to have many women friends all of a sudden. Some of them are lovers as well. My question (I'm not sure if this is exactly a problem) is: Do I owe it to the women I am sleeping with to tell them about the others? I have never made any promises to any of them. I have made no commitments. I have never lied to any of them. So far, none has asked me whether I am seeing anyone else, but I fear that the time will soon come when one or more of them will. At this point, I don't think I would be able to lie if confronted directly, but

should I preempt the question? Dodging Don Juan Somewhere in Israel Dear Dodger, The fact that this question even arises in your mind indicates that you feel you are not being above board in the bedroom. This may be why you made a point of telling of your widowhood and subsequent self-imposed solitude where female companionship was concerned. If you are feeling uneasy about not having informed one female friend of the existence of another, then perhaps your unconscious is trying

to tell you something. If, on the other hand, you are merely questioning proper etiquette, you may remain silent until confronted. A third possibility is that you do not wish to reveal your "secret" for fear that one or a number of these women may take a hike. If so, you should volunteer the truth. Just as it is your choice to engage in more than one romance simultaneously, the women you are seeing should be able to make choices of their own. But, since choosing involves being aware of the options, you are doing a disservice to your friends

by not presenting a clear picture of what those options are. One further point worth examining is whether you would wish to be kept abreast of similar sexual behavior on the part of the women who are sharing your bed.

Dear Ruthie, After having been in a seven-year relationship with a man who never had any money (and when he did have some, he hated spending it), I swore I would never get involved with another man. Then, lo and behold, I met someone about a month ago who I'm crazy about in every possible way, except for one thing. You guessed it! He's a cheapskate! It really bothers me. Is there a way to teach someone to stop being stingy? I mean, this guy's 46 years old! But I'd hate to miss out on all of his other wonderful qualities. Help! Cheap-Shy but Charmed Somewhere in Israel Dear Charmed by a Cheapskate, Relation to money is just one of many outward expressions of internal activity. As a result, teaching someone to be less stingy is not very realistic. Far more effective would be to teach that person to examine his deep-seated motives for hanging on to his money with such fervor. It is possible to humiliate others into spending more money than they are inclined to do: by showing them an example of utter generosity. Being lax about how much cash is thrown around when in their presence may make such people take notice of the contrast with their own behavior. Take into account, however, that this tactic might backfire. People with a profound need to "clutch their coins" tend to observe the generous behavior of others as "wasteful" and "irresponsible."

# Above board in the bedroom

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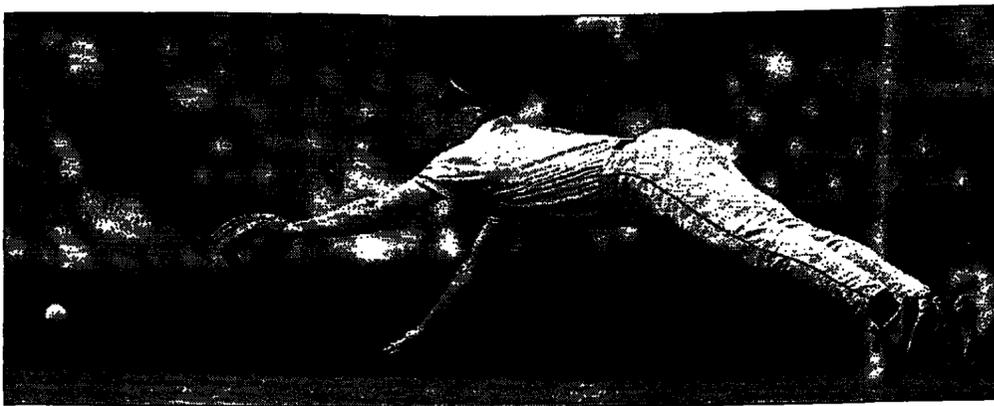
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Not necessarily. Ben-David

# Phillies lose 11th-straight



OUT OF REACH - Orioles' 3B Cal Ripken, Jr. can't get to a shot by Detroit's Damian Easley who doubled on the play. The Tigers and Orioles split a doubleheader on Friday.

## All-Star Game Rosters

Rosters for the 1997 All-Star game, to be played July 8 at Jacobs Field in Cleveland (x-injured, will not play; y-on disabled list):

### AMERICAN LEAGUE STARTERS

Catcher-Ivan Rodriguez, Texas First Base-Tino Martinez, New York Yankees Second Base-Roberto Alomar, Baltimore Third Base-Cal Ripken, Baltimore Shortstop-Alex Rodriguez, Seattle Designated Hitter-Edgar Martinez, Seattle Outfield-Brady Anderson, Baltimore; y-Dave Justice, Cleveland; Ken Griffey, Jr., Seattle.

### RESERVES

Catcher-Sandy Alomar, Jr., Cleveland Infielders-Jeff Cirillo, Milwaukee; Joey Cora, Seattle; Nomar Garciaparra, Boston; Chuck Knoblauch, Minnesota; Mark McGwire, Oakland; Frank Thomas, Chicago.

Outfielders-Albert Belle, Chicago White Sox; Bernie Williams, New York Yankees.

Pitchers-Roger Clemens, Toronto; David Cone, New York Yankees; Jason Dickson, Anaheim; Pat Hentgen, Toronto; Randy Johnson, Seattle; Mike Mussina, Baltimore; Randy Myers, Baltimore; Mariano Rivera, New York Yankees; Jose Rosado, Kansas City; Justin Thompson, Detroit.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE STARTERS

Catcher-Mike Piazza, Los Angeles First Base-Jeff Bagwell, Houston Second Base-Craig Biggio, Houston Third Base-Ryan Howard, San Diego Shortstop-Ken Griffey, Jr., Seattle Outfield-Tony Gwynn, San Diego; Kenny Lofton, Atlanta; Larry Walker, Colorado.

RESERVES Catchers-Todd Hundley, New York Mets; Javier Lopez, Atlanta.

Infielders-Jeff Blauvelt, Atlanta; Andre Galaraga, Colorado; Mark Grace, Chicago Cubs; Gary Jones, Atlanta; Tony Oliva, Pittsburgh.

Outfielders-Mike Alou, Florida; Barry Bonds, San Francisco; Ray Lankford, St. Louis.

Pitchers-Ray Beck, San Francisco; Kevin Brown, Florida; Shawn Estes, San Francisco; Tom Glavine, Atlanta; Darryl Kile, Houston; Bobby Jones, New York Mets; Greg Maddux, Atlanta; Pedro Martinez, Montreal; Denny Neagle, Pittsburgh; Curt Schilling, Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pitcher Terry Mulholland drove in the go-ahead run with the first of his two doubles as the streaking Chicago Cubs beat Philadelphia 9-3 Friday, handing the Phillies their 11th consecutive defeat.

Ryne Sandberg went 3-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs, and Dave Hansen had two hits and drove in two runs for Chicago. The Cubs have won five straight games — their best streak since an eight-game run in 1995.

The Phillies' run of futility is their worst since they lost 11 straight in 1989. Mulholland (6-9) had lost five straight decisions.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 5 (10) Mark Smith hit a two-run homer off Dennis Eckersley in the top of the 10th inning, and Pittsburgh extended its winning streak to five games.

With two outs in the 10th, Dale Sveum doubled off the center field wall before Smith hit the first pitch from Eckersley (0-3) over the right field wall for his second home run of the season and third hit of the game.

Marc Wilkins (6-1) pitched a scoreless ninth to pick up the first win by a Pirates reliever since June 6. Rich Loeiselle got his 10th save.

The Pirates tied the game with two outs in the ninth off Eckersley. Pinch-hitter Jose Guillen singled before Tony Womack doubled over the head of left fielder Ron Gant, who appeared to lose the ball in the sun.

Braves 6, Expos 3 Mark Lemke broke a 3-3 tie in the top of the ninth with a two-run triple off Ugueth Urbina (2-6), sending the Braves to their fourth straight win and ninth in 10 games.

Brad Clontz (4-1) pitched one inning of relief for the win.

Mets 6, Marlins 2

Todd Pratt, in his first game since July 1995, drove in three runs as New York stopped a four-game losing streak.

The Mets, outscored 41-17 during their slide, fell behind on Gary Sheffield's two-run homer in the first inning. But Rick Reed (6-4) and two relievers blanked the Marlins the rest of the way.

Bernard Gilkey added a two-run homer off Al Leiter (7-6) and a late RBI single as the Mets won before a fireworks night crowd of 38,076.

Reds 4, Astros 2

Willie Greene became only the ninth player to homer into the Astrodome's upper deck, and Cincinnati extended a winning streak winning six straight last July 22-27. Houston has lost four of five.

With Cincinnati trailing 2-0 in the fourth, Tommy Greene (0-1) walked Curtis Goodwin and Lenny Harris and Willie Greene sent a 1-0 pitch into the upper deck in right field.

Mike Morgan (3-5) won for the third time in four decisions, allowing two runs and five hits in five innings. Scott Sullivan and Jeff Shaw finished with hitless relief, with Shaw getting three outs for his 18th save.

Dodgers 5, Padres 2 Pedro Astacio pitched 6 1/2 strong innings, and Greg Gagne and Tripp Cromer each had two-run

NATIONAL LEAGUE BATTING—Gwynn, San Diego, .396; LWalker, Colorado, .383; Piazza, Los Angeles, .364; Lofton, Atlanta, .344; Blauer, Atlanta, .342; Lankford, St. Louis, .332; Joyner, San Diego, .330; RIMS—Walker, Colorado, .79; Biggio, Houston, .74; Galaraga, Colorado, .68; Bonds, San Francisco, .58; Ecyong, Colorado, .58; Olerud, New York, .58; Bagwell, Houston, .56; Bagwell, Houston, .54; Gwynn, San Diego, .70; LWalker, Colorado, .68; Ch.Jones, Atlanta, .65; Alou, Florida, .64; Bichette, Colorado, .64.

HITS—Gwynn, San Diego, 128; LWalker, Colorado, 118; Piazza, Los Angeles, 108; Biggio, Houston, 108; Galaraga, Colorado, 105; Ecyong, Colorado, 98; Lofton, Atlanta, 98; Bagwell, Houston, 98.

HOME RUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 25; Bagwell, Houston, 22; Galaraga, Colorado, 22; Castillo, Colorado, 21; Bonds, San Francisco, 20; Karros, Los Angeles, 19; Hundley, New York, 19.

STOLEN BASES—DAnderson, Cincinnati, 39; Womack, Pittsburgh, 33; DeShields, St. Louis, 30; Ecyong, Colorado, 20; Clayton, St. Louis, 19; Lofton, Atlanta, 19; 5 are tied with 18.

PITCHING (10 Decisions)—Neagle, Atlanta, 12-1, 92.3, 3.14; Estes, San Francisco, 12-2, 85.7, 2.51; Judon, Montreal, 10-2, 83.8, 3.88; Glavine, Atlanta, 11-3, 78.8, 2.36; P.J.Martinez, Montreal, 10-3, 78.9, 1.54; Kile, Houston, 9-3, 75.0, 2.23; B.Jones, New York, 12-5, 70.5, 3.11.

STRIKEOUTS—P.Martinez, Philadelphia, 158; P.J.Martinez, Montreal, 145; A.Benes, St. Louis, 136; Nomo, Los Angeles, 131; KJBrown, Florida, 116; Smoltz, Atlanta, 106; A.Benes, St. Louis, 100; Sotthomy, St. Louis, 100.

SAVES—Beck, San Francisco, 28; Nen, Florida, 24; Wohlers, Atlanta, 19; ToWorrell, Los Angeles, 19; JoFranco, New York, 19; Shaw, Cincinnati, 18; Eckersley, St. Louis, 18.

doubles for visiting Los Angeles. Astacio (5-7) gave up seven hits and two runs to win his second consecutive start for the first time this season.

AMERICAN LEAGUE Twins 13, Brewers 1 Greg Colbrunn went 4-for-6 with a double, homer and four RBIs, and visiting Minnesota got 23 hits as they handed the plung-

ing Milwaukee Brewers their fifth straight loss.

Blue Jays 1, Yankees 0 Juan Guzman and Kelvin Escobar combined on a two-hitter and Orlando Merced homered in the sixth inning for host Toronto. The victory was just the Blue Jays' second in 10 home games and fourth in 17 games against the Yankees at SkyDome. It also ended New York's four-game road winning streak.

Indians 7, Royals 6 Marquis Grissom's tie-breaking infield single in the bottom of the eighth gave Cleveland the victory.

Cleveland's Sandy Alomar was 2-for-4 to extend his hitting streak to 29 games, tops in the majors this season and longest by an Indians player in 95 years.

With the bases loaded and two

outs in the eighth, Grissom lined a sharp one-hopper to David Howard at second. The ball bounced hard off the infielder and was originally ruled an error that allowed Matt Williams to score. But the official scorer changed it to a hit after the game.

Orioles 4, Tigers 3 Brian Hunter hit his first career grand slam and host Detroit ended an 11-game losing streak to Baltimore, overcoming 5-0 and 8-5 deficits to gain the doubleheader split.

Lenny Webster singled to break a fifth-inning tie as the Orioles won the opener to stretch their winning streak to five.

Brady Anderson left the second game when he was hit by a pitch by Omar Olivares leading off the game and bruised his left leg.

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	56	29	.659	—	Baltimore	55	28	.663	—
Florida	50	34	.595	5 1/2	New York	47	36	.566	8
Montreal	46	38	.548	9 1/2	Toronto	39	42	.481	15
New York	46	38	.548	9 1/2	Detroit	39	44	.470	16
Philadelphia	23	60	.277	32	Boston	38	46	.452	17 1/2
Central Division					Central Division				
Pittsburgh	41	43	.488	—	Cleveland	42	36	.538	—
St. Louis	41	43	.488	—	Chicago	41	42	.494	3 1/2
Houston	41	45	.477	1	Houston	37	44	.457	6 1/2
Cincinnati	38	4	.452	7	Kansas City	36	44	.450	7
Chicago	36	49	.423	5 1/2	Minnesota	37	46	.446	7 1/2
West Division					West Division				
San Francisco	49	36	.576	—	Seattle	49	36	.576	—
Los Angeles	43	42	.506	6	Texas	42	41	.506	6
Colorado	43	43	.500	6 1/2	Anaheim	42	42	.500	6 1/2
San Diego	38	47	.447	11	Oakland	36	51	.414	14

Friday's NL results: Chicago 9, Philadelphia 3; Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 5 (10); Cincinnati 4, Houston 2; Atlanta 6, Montreal 3; NY 6, Florida 2; Los Angeles 5, San Diego 2; San Francisco 4, Colorado 0.

Thursday's NL results: Chicago 5, Philadelphia 4; Atlanta 15, Montreal 2; Florida 10, NY 4; Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 4; Cincinnati 4, Houston 3; Texas 8, Colorado 3; San Diego 10, Seattle 8; San Francisco 6, Oakland 4; Los Angeles 8, Anaheim 2.

Friday's AL results: Minnesota 13, Milwaukee 1; Baltimore 4, Detroit 3 (1st); Detroit 11, Baltimore 8 (2nd); Toronto 1, NY 0; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 6; Chicago 6, Boston 5; Texas 7, Oakland 6; Seattle 7, Anaheim 3.

Thursday's AL results: Minnesota 8, Milwaukee 5; Baltimore 10, Detroit 1; NY 3, Toronto 1; Boston 4, Chicago 1; Texas 8, Colorado 3; San Diego 10, Seattle 8; San Francisco 6, Oakland 4; Los Angeles 8, Anaheim 2.

# Spanning the globe

## Michael Jordan mania reaches Israel

By BILL MAXWELL

ST. PETERSBURG — Only in the Michael Jordan era have they become perennial NBA champions, but I have been a Chicago Bulls fan all my life.

When I lived in the Windy City for several years as a child, my uncle took me to all of the home games. As a college student there, I attended as many as I could afford.

Throughout the years, as I have moved around the nation, my love of the Bulls has mellowed, not diminished. And although I now live in my home state of Florida where we have the Orlando Magic and the Miami Heat, I do not cheer for these teams when they play the Bulls.

I fully appreciated the far-reaching popularity of the Jordan-era Bulls during my last trip to Israel, when I was there with a group of fellow American journalists.

On our second day in Tel Aviv, Jay Kim, the vice president of Korean Broadcasting in Chicago, and I spent hours sightseeing. We became instant friends after he learned that I am a University of Chicago alumnus.

Everywhere we went, small groups of children — Israelis, Arabs — gathered around us.

Concerned, I asked Jay if he knew what was going on. He said that he did not. Even at the memorial where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, where the mood is somber, a few kids looked at us in a special way.

Over dinner that night, I asked our guide, a native Israeli, to explain why the youngsters were attracted to us.

Jay and I told him and our colleagues that we had simply walked the streets of Tel Aviv, taking photographs, tasting various foods, window shopping, checking out the beautiful women and doing whatever else awe-struck tourists do in Israel.

Our guide, too, was at a loss. The next afternoon, as we had lunch with the students of Givat Haviva Regional Arab-Jewish Education Center on the West Bank, the truth slowly emerged after a former Ethiopian, a tall male, asked if I knew Michael Jordan. I told him that I had seen him play several times.

"Do you mean in person — live?" the teen asked, incredulously.

"Yes, seeing him play in the flesh is a great experience," I said.

"Have you seen the Bulls, too?" an Arab boy asked Jay.

"I sure have. Many times." Jay was enjoying the attention.

After the student reached out and touched my sleeve, I understood the source of my attraction: I was wearing the same black-and-red Bulls jacket I had worn in Tel Aviv.

As the other journalists and I prepared to dine with the students and staff, two Israeli teenagers and two Arab males rushed over to sit with Jay and me.

Although the purpose of our visit was to learn about Arab and Jewish coexistence, the students spent the entire time asking us about the Bulls and Chicago.

In nearby Barta'a, a small Arab Muslim village, we visited the home of a local official. Again, my jacket attracted the young men.

When I walked outside, a boy of about 12, carrying a red Bulls cap, trotted toward me. He placed the cap on his head and stood proudly in front of me, smiling from ear to ear.

I put away my notebook and snapped his picture. Before boarding our tour bus, I gave the boy a high five. He was thrilled.

Even at the Kibbutz Degania, where life is stripped of frivolity, youngsters gave my Bulls jacket a double take.

The following day, temperatures fell in Jerusalem and I donned the jacket. Everywhere Jay and I went, including the narrow streets

of the Arab sector, kids stared. But nothing compared with the experience at the Migdal Or Educational Center for Russian immigrant boys. My colleagues and I held a question-answer session with the students.

When the moderator, a rabbi, introduced Jay and me as Chicagoans, many of the boys applauded.

After I stood, fully displaying the Bulls logo on the jacket, the applause grew louder and some of the boys cheered.

"They love the Bulls," the rabbi said. "They love Michael Jordan."

As I left the building, several boys touched the jacket. One said Jordan's name and made a fist like his hero does sometimes after having scored yet another impossible basket.

On the steep, winding road back to Jerusalem, Jay said: "You were a big hit, Bill."

"Michael Jordan and the Bulls were a hit," I replied, remembering that I had bought the jacket especially for this trip.

The next day, when I returned to the Old City, an Arab boy approached and tried to sell me a camel skin purse. Noticing that he could not take his eyes off my jacket, I asked if he liked the Chicago Bulls.

"Favorite team," he said. "Michael Jordan."

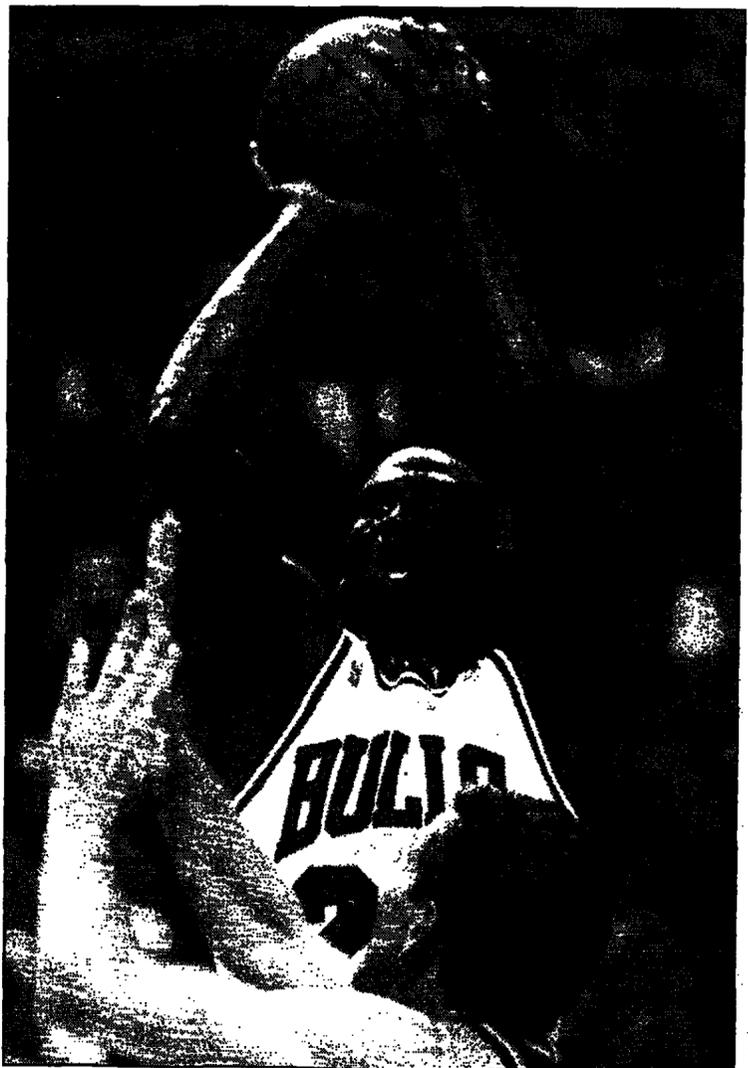
I took off the jacket and offered to trade it for the purse, which I wanted for my daughter.

The boy immediately handed me the purse, took the jacket, put it on and dashed toward his family's stall.

The hem of jacket fell below his knees and the sleeves swallowed his arms.

As the boy ran, the horns of the bull on the back of the jacket jerked up and down, its menacing eyes staring at me.

Walking away, I could see the child showing off his Bulls jacket. (New York Times)



HEAD AND SHOULDERS — Chicago's Michael Jordan takes a shot over Utah's Jeff Hornacek during the recent NEA championship playoffs. (Reuters)

\$49.95 or a lifetime ban?

Lifetime ban? Forget it. The final judge and jury in the Mike Tyson case will not be five people you've never heard of from the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Oh, they'll make a call, all right. Some length of suspension, some cash out of Tyson's pocket. We'll know the details soon, maybe this week.

But even if those details include a lifetime suspension, expect it to be like one of those lifetime suspensions in track and field. You have seen those, in which the athlete tests positive for a banned drug and claims that the guy in the lab messed up because the athlete never, ever used performance-enhancing drugs, and the fact that he gained 50 pounds in the last six months and just broke a world record by 10 feet is all a coincidence. At last count, all 3,427 track and field athletes testing positive for banned drugs claimed innocence and were victims of some klutz in the lab.

Many track athletes are given lifetime suspensions. But "lifetime" in the world of track and field usually means a little more than a year, depending upon what quality of pinstripe suit your lawyers wear.

It will be similar with Tyson, who, unlike his track and field brethren, is not claiming innocence. But then, his track and field brethren, unlike Tyson, aren't biting off peoples' ears.

And he should be glad he didn't square off against Holyfield in North Carolina.

Had Tyson chomped on Holyfield's ears there, he might have been charged under a 243-year-old law that prohibits biting or cutting off ears, cutting noses or other maiming.

North Carolina's isn't the only law against biting. There's one in Nevada, where the Tyson-Holyfield fight was held, that has a penalty up to 10 years in prison for anyone who "deprives a human being of a member of his body, or disfigures or renders it useless."

No, Tyson admitted he's a creep, which may be the only refreshing thing about this story. If it is a lifetime suspension that the Nevada State Athletic Commission passes down, or even anything longer than the one year Tyson seems to be expecting, Tyson will do what the track and field people do: hire a lawyer.

The argument will be that ever-present red-white-and-blue stance that Tyson has been deprived of his right to make a living.

He and his lawyers will win, of course, because the Nevada State Athletic Commission won't want to face the prospect of huge legal fees. And Tyson will be back in the ring almost before we know it.

It will be then that the real judge and jury, the American sports fan/consumer, will be asked to pass judgment. And for people like Tyson and his promoter, Don King, it will be the only verdict that really matters. It will come down to this: Pay the \$49.95 to see Tyson fight and cast your vote for public barbarism, socially unacceptable behavior, unthinkable example-setting for children and a further absence of conscience in a sport that never had much anyway.

Or don't pay the \$49.95 and cast a vote against Tyson and for no more second chances, no more flower-child forgive-and-forget posturing, no more weak-in-the-knees people-change stances.

Almost since the first javelin was thrown in Athens, sports fans have been swamped with opportunities to draw lines in the sand.

Baseball fans swear they will never return after strikes, and always do. Fans in cities where pro football teams leave for greener pastures swear they will never again watch that team on TV or patronize its sponsors, and always do.

Mike Tyson will be back, in the ring, in the public, in our psyche.

And, because lots of people will still pay the \$49.95, he will also, before you know it, be back in the money. (Los Angeles Times)

هكزان الأهل

# S. Africa salvage pride

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa salvaged some pride yesterday, outslugging the British Lions 35-16 to take the third and final Test of a series that the visitors already had clinched.

Percy Montgomery, Joost van der Westhuizen, Andre Snyman and Pieter Rousouw scored tries as the Springboks overcame two Lion comeback attempts. It was a match big on hits that left several players injured but short on skill as both sides repeatedly mis-handled possession.

South Africa ran off to an early advantage they never relinquished. Jan de Beer, handed the Springbok kicking duties after three players combined to miss all six attempts last week, proved up to the task before a second-half injury as South Africa dominated early possession and position.

He got a loud ovation with a penalty in the fifth minute, made it 6-0 five minutes later and barely missed on another long attempt.

Montgomery got the match's first try in the 16th minute, dotting near the posts to set up an easy conversion by de Beer to make it 13-0.

But Neil Jenkins, whose kicking has been superb for the Lions, converted three straight penalty attempts to pull the visitors within 13-9 at the intermission.

It was a hard-hitting half that left Tony Underwood sidelined with an injury and sparked a small brawl in injury time.

The Springboks stretched the lead when van der Westhuizen broke a tackle, rambled around the right side and touched just inside the sideline. De Beer converted and, after missing his first kick with a penalty that hit the left post, added his third penalty to make it 23-9.

Matt Dawson got the Lions' first try in the 46th minute, with Jenkins converting to make it 23-16. Snyman got his try just before injury time, and Rousouw went over on the next possession.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Tries — Montgomery, van der Westhuizen, Snyman, Rousouw; Conversions — de Beer 2, Honiball; Penalties — de Beer 3.

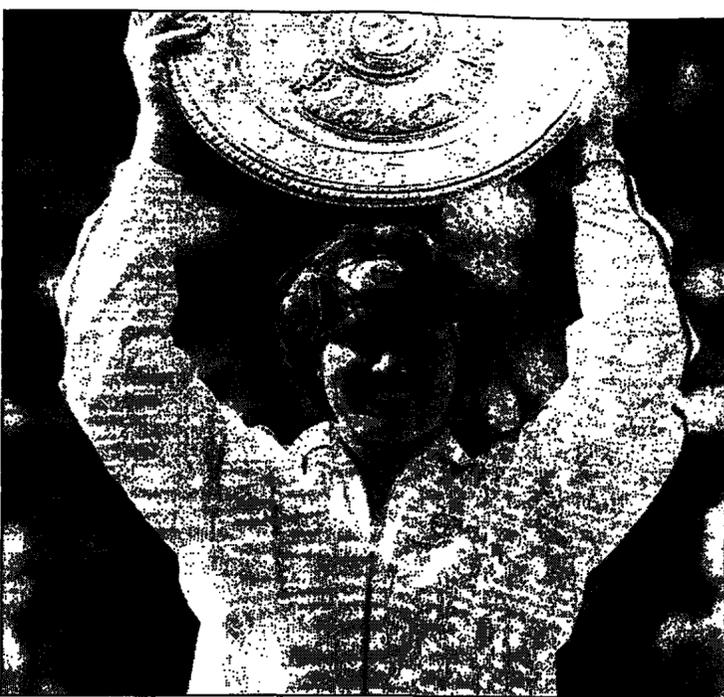
**BRITISH LIONS:** Try — Dawson; Conversion — Jenkins; Penalties — Jenkins 3.

# Hingis rallies to take 2nd Grand Slam

## World No. 1 adds Wimbledon to Australian Open title; Sampras to meet Pioline in today's final

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Jana Novotna again couldn't hold a lead in the Wimbledon final and Martina Hingis rallied to win in three sets yesterday to become the youngest champion this century.

Novotna was up a break at 2-0 in the third set, with a game point for 3-0, but couldn't convert. Hingis ran off six of the next seven games to complete a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory for her second Grand Slam singles title.



GLORY BE — Martina Hingis holds up Wimbledon plate, after her three-set win over Jana Novotna yesterday.

At 16 years and 9 months, the Swiss sensation became the youngest Wimbledon singles champion — man or woman — since Charlotte "Lottie" Dod won in 1887 at 15 years, 10 months.

"Maybe I'm too young to win this title," Hingis said, laughing. "When I stood there, there was a great atmosphere. The crowd was unbelievable. I almost felt like crying. I couldn't believe it happened to me."

It was another heartbreaking Wimbledon final for Novotna, who blew a 4-1 lead in the third set against Steffi Graf in 1993 and wept on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent.

Novotna may not have been at full strength. She called out a trainer several times during changeovers during the third set.

She took some pills and applied an ice pack to her stomach, but there was no visible sign that she was injured.

Novotna, playing perfect grass-court tennis, won the first set in just 22 minutes as Hingis struggled to keep up with her chip-and-charge tactics.

"I was pretty much in shock the first set," Hingis said. "I felt like a beginner out there. I just couldn't believe she could play that great. She didn't miss one ball."

Novotna opened the match by breaking Hingis at love and raced to a 4-0 lead after just 11 minutes, dropping only five points in the process.

Hingis finally held in the fifth game, and again in the seventh. But Novotna served out the set at 15, closing it out with a serve and backhand volley.

The shot which seemed to turn things around for Hingis came in the third game of the second set.

With Hingis serving at game point, Novotna chipped a forehand return deep into the backhand corner. But Hingis shuffled over and hit a stretch backhand passing shot down the line and out of

Novotna's reach.

That seemed to revive Hingis. She suddenly found the range and timing on her shots. Her passing shots and lobs started clicking, keeping Novotna off balance.

"I tried to make her know I can also play a little tennis," Hingis said.

Hingis was already the youngest Grand Slam champion this century, having won the Australian Open in January at the age of 16 years, 3 months.

She was also the youngest-ever Wimbledon champion when she won the 1996 doubles title with Helena Sukova at 15 years, 282 days.

The previous youngest Wimbledon women's singles champ this century was Maureen

Connolly, who was 17 years, 9 months, when she won the 1952 championship.

**Men's semifinals**

Pete Sampras and Cedric Pioline will meet in today's Grand Slam final for the second time.

Sampras outplayed Todd Woodbridge in straight sets in the semifinals Friday to close in on his fourth Wimbledon title in five years.

One day after ousting fellow three-time champ Boris Becker in a match that had the atmosphere of a final, Sampras coasted to a 6-2, 6-1, 7-6(7-3) victory over the unseeded Australian in what could have been a routine first-round.

Sampras' opponent is unseeded Cedric Pioline, who beat 1991 champion Michael Stich in five

sets to become the first French finalist at Wimbledon in 51 years.

Pioline, playing the match of his life, won 6-7(7-2), 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 in a thrilling match that ended after nearly three hours in fading light.

After Pioline rifled a service winner on match point, the two embraced at the net. Stich, in his last appearance at Wimbledon before retirement, wiped away tears as he waved goodbye to the Center Court crowd.

Stich, who had been expected to play in a few more tournaments and Davis Cup, told Pioline that it was the last match of his career.

The last Frenchman to reach the final was Yvon Petra, who won the title in 1946. He was the last champion to wear long pants.

# Waugh helps Aussies extend 3rd-Test lead

MANCHESTER (AP) — Steve Waugh set his eyes on a second successive century and helped Australia take a stranglehold of the third Test against England at Old Trafford yesterday.

Waugh continued from where he left off in his first-innings 108 with a determined unbeaten 82 in Australia's second-innings 262 for six at stumps on the third day.

Just as he did in the first-innings, Waugh anchored Australia's batting during his 303-minute occupation of the crease and shared three stands with Mark Waugh (55), Ian Healy (47) and Shane Warne (33 not out) to extend the lead to over 300 runs.

With two days remaining, Australia enjoys a 335-run lead and has given itself a great opportunity to square the six-match Ashes series one-a-piece.



Shane Warne (AP)

Warne, who earlier in the day became the greatest leg spinner of all time when he passed countryman Richie Benaud's 248 Test wickets, struck a six and two boundaries as his unfinished seventh-wicket stand with Waugh reached 52 runs in 65 minutes.

England won the first Test at Edgbaston by nine wickets, while rain at Lord's marred a possible Australian victory in the second Test.

No team has scored over 145 runs in the fourth innings to win a Test at Old Trafford. South Africa scored 145 for seven and beat England by three wickets in 1955.

The last and only time England scored over 300 runs in an Ashes

Test and won was way back in 1928-29, when it scored 332 for seven at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

After Warne had taken six for 48 to bowl out England for 162, England medium paceman Dean Headley made short work of the Australian top order.

After removing Mark Taylor (1) and Matthew Elliott (11), Headley exposed Michael Bevan's discomfort with the short-pitched delivery.

Headley bounced Bevan, and the left-hander drolled a catch to skipper Michael Atherton at one of the two guilts set for the Australian batsman.

Headley finished the day with three for 64 to add to his first innings four for 72, after becoming the first third-generation crick-

eter to play Test cricket.

Off spinner Robert Croft who claimed the wickets of Greg Blewett and Healy, took two for 57 in 22 overs.

Scoreboard yesterday, at stumps on the third day of the third cricket Test between Australia and England at Old Trafford:

Australia, 1st Innings 235	
England, 1st Innings (Overnight 181 for eight)	
Mark Butcher c Healy b Bevan	51
M Atherton c Healy b McGrath	5
Alec Stewart c Taylor b Warne	30
Nasser Hussain c Healy b Warne	13
G Thorpe c Taylor b Warne	3
John Crawley c Healy b Warne	4
Mark Ealham not out	24
Robert Croft c S Waugh b McGrath	7
Darren Gough lbw b Warne	15
ACaddick c M Waugh b Warne	0
Dean Headley b McGrath	0
Extras (4b, 3lb, 2nb)	3
TOTAL: 162 all out.	
Fall of wicket: 8, 74, 94, 101, 110, 111, 122, 123, 161, 162.	
Bowling: Glenn McGrath 23.4-9-40-3, Paul Hogg 9.3-1-4-0 (2nb), Shane Warne 30-14-48-6, Jason Gillespie 14-3-39-0, Michael Bevan 8-3-14-1.	
Batting time: 339 minutes. Overs: 84.4	
Australia, 2nd Innings	
Matthew Elliott c Butcher b Headley	11
Mark Taylor c Butcher b Headley	1
Greg Blewett c Hussain b Croft	19
Mark Waugh b Ealham	55
Steve Waugh not out	82
Michael Bevan c Atherton b Headley 0	
Ian Healy c Butcher b Croft	47
Shane Warne not out	33
Extras (1b, 7lb, 6nb)	14
TOTAL: 282 runs for six wickets	
Fall of wicket: 5, 33, 39, 131, 132, 210.	
Bowling: Darren Gough 16-2-50-0 (2nb), Dean Headley 21-3-64-3 (2nb), Robert Croft 22-9-57-2, Mark Ealham 13-2-41-1, Andrew Caddick 13-0-42-0 (2nb).	
Batting time: 384 minutes. Overs: 85.	

# Tour de France begins with Boardman winning time trial

ROUEN (AP) — Chris Boardman of Britain captured the Tour de France's opening prologue to gain the leader's yellow

jersey yesterday with the race beginning its 22-day trip around the country.

Boardman is a speed specialist

who holds world records and Olympic gold medals on the track. He has been doing well in multi-stage races this year and could hold the yellow jersey a while if his GAN team defends attacks until the mountains.

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HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-5374253.

Boardman timed 8 minutes, 20.90 seconds for the 7.3-kilometer (4.5-mile) time trial through downtown Rouen which included a passage past the famed cathedral.

Second in the short stage was Jan Ullrich of Germany, just two seconds behind Boardman. Third was Russian Yevgeny Berzin, five seconds behind.

Two Swiss veterans, Tony Rominger and Alex Zülle, followed, also five seconds behind the leader.

Five-time winner, Miguel Indurain, is not competing this year after winning from 1991 to 1995 before faltering last year. It is the first time in 12 years that Indurain is not in the race.

Ris started last wearing the emblematic yellow jersey as last year's winner.

Less than nine minutes later he had to give it up to Boardman who will hold the lead heading into today's first stage from Rouen to Forges-Les-Eaux, 192 km (119.3m).

Ris ended 13th, about 15 seconds behind Boardman.

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Sunday, July 6

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Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 882-2842.

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Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 182 Derech Aikko, Krayot Blaik, 878-7818.

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**FIRE** 102

**FIRST AID** 101

**SCOREBOARD**

**BASKETBALL:** European Championships quarterfinals - Italy 65, Turkey 43; Russia 70, Spain 67; Yugoslavia 75, Lithuania 60; Greece 72, Poland 62. (Semis: Italy-Russia, Yugoslavia-Greece)

Yesterday's results: To decide 5th to 8th positions: Poland 55, Lithuania 76 (halftime 25-41); Spain-Turkey. To decide 9th to 12th places: Israel 91, France 84 (halftime 43-48), Germany 93, Croatia 100 (halftime 41-59).

**SOCCER:** World Cup qualifier between Australia and New Zealand was postponed due to rain yesterday. The Oceania Group qualifying match was rescheduled for today at Parramatta Stadium in western Sydney. Australia won the first leg 3-0 in Auckland.

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For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315644.

# Soccer team leave lacking

By ORI LEWIS

The national soccer squad will be without many key players as it assembles at Ben-Gurion Airport this morning on the way to a one-week training camp in Austria.

The players missing from the squad include Ronen Harazi, Eli Ohana and David Annalen, Betar Jerusalem's three stars who are currently being investigated for suspected tax evasion. All three have failed to come up with the bond required to allow them to get their passports back.

A fourth player missing from the camp, perhaps one of the most influential, is defender Gadi Bruner who has picked up another injury, this time during a training camp with his club, Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Coach Shlomo Scharf said yesterday he hoped that the Betar trio would sort out their problems during today and could fly out later this afternoon to join their colleagues.

# National athletics championships start today

By JOEL GORDIN

THE two-day 61st Israel Athletic Championships opens tonight at Hadar Yosef Stadium in Tel Aviv. This year's championship is being held under the patronage of President Ezer Weizman who is expected to be at the stadium tonight.

The very first event, the pole vault, will be one of the most keenly-contested. One centimeter separates the best achievements of national record-holder Constantine Simionev (5.76m) and Danny Krasnov (5.75m) who placed 11th at last year's Olympics in Atlanta. The two Israelis will be pushed by Michael Dechiken, a guest from Uzbekistan who has cleared 5.50m.

The other key event is the triple jump where national record holder Rogel Nahum (17.20m.) will be fighting off a challenge by Avi Tayri who has jumped 16.70m. They will be joined by Latvian Marius Broziks whose best is 17.30m.

The high jump, which will feature a tough showdown between Constantine Matushevich and Itai Margolit, will be held tomorrow night.

The championships will be a valuable dress rehearsal for the six Israelis who have already secured their places on the team to attend the world championships in Athens in August: triple jumpers Nahum and Tayri; pole vaulters Krasnov and Simionev; high jumper Constantin Matushevich and marathon runner Assaf Binno.

It will also be an opportunity at least seven more to achieve the minimum to make the squad. Tonight's events, which start at 18:30, are: MEN: Pole vault, 110m. hurdles, triple jump, 400m., 1,500m., 100m. WOMEN: 100m. hurdles, triple jump, 400m., 1,500m., discus, 100m.

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# IAF helps put out fire at Turkish munitions factory

PARIS (Reuters) - Two Israeli Air Force helicopters dropped water on a fire smoldering in the ruins of a Turkish munitions factory on Friday after a series of huge explosions the previous day that killed two people and caused widespread panic.

The US-made Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters partially doused the flames at the plant in the half-deserted central town of Kirikkale, 70 kilometers east of Ankara.

The military wing of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) claimed responsibility yesterday for the blasts.

"One of the urban brigades dependent on our staff headquarters undertook with success on July 3 an action against the Kirikkale machinery and chemicals factory which makes bombs of mass destruction," the general command of the National Liberation Army of Kurdistan (ARGL) said, in a statement received by a Western news agency in Paris.

"This action is a warning to the new government which has just been put in place to stop the war. If not, ARGL's capacity to strike military targets could target and paralyze economic and tourist sites," the statement said.

"We do not want the war to worsen, but we cannot remain indifferent to the successive attacks against our movement," the statement added.

The group's claim could not immediately be verified. The Paris-based Kurdistan Information Center said it could confirm, however, that

the statement had been issued by the ARGL.

The group said in its statement that it had targeted the plant because it made weapons used by Ankara to "destroy more than 3,000 Kurd villages."

"It is to eliminate the threat of new massacres that we successfully undertook such an action," the statement said.

Kirikkale Mayor Cemalettin Akdogan was quoted by the Anatolian news agency on Thursday as ruling out sabotage as a cause of the blast.

But new Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz later visited the town and said sabotage was a possible cause and that an investigation was under way.

The explosions at the munitions plant in the central Anatolian town of Kirikkale sent locals fleeing from the area. Thousands spent the night sleeping in their cars outside the town or camped out in nearby fields.

Blasts that sent flames 300 meters into the sky shook the town all day on Thursday, damaging houses, destroying the factory and causing damage estimated at \$6.7 million.

The Turkish deputy chief of general staff spoke to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Friday, and thanked the IAF for the help. Mordechai said that the air force operation demonstrated that cooperation between Turkey and Israel was of a friendly and humanitarian nature and had no other motive.



An IAF helicopter pours water on the remnants of a fire at a weapons factory at Kirikkale on Friday. (AP)

**WEATHER** Golan 15-30

Halla 24-34 Tiberias 25-39

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Tel Aviv 25-30

Jerusalem 22-30

Beersheba 22-35

Dead Sea 30-41

Eilat 28-41

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F			
Amsterdam	12	54	20	68	rain
Berlin	13	55	24	75	cloudy
Buenos Aires	23	73	34	93	clear
Chicago	12	54	31	70	clear
Copenhagen	14	57	21	70	rain
Frankfurt	12	54	22	72	rain
Geneva	14	57	21	70	rain
Helsinki	14	57	21	70	rain
Hong Kong	26	80	29	84	rain
Jakarta	26	80	29	84	rain
Lisbon	18	64	28	82	clear
London	12	54	21	70	rain
Los Angeles	19	66	30	86	clear
Moscow	13	55	28	82	cloudy
New York	18	64	30	86	cloudy
Paris	13	55	28	82	cloudy
Rome	14	57	30	86	cloudy
Stockholm	18	64	28	82	rain
Tokyo	27	81	38	100	clear
Toronto	13	55	17	63	rain
Zurich	13	55	15	59	rain

## Prosecutor wants murder conviction for Naharayim slayings

NAOUR, Jordan (AP) - Prosecutors yesterday asked a military tribunal to convict a Jordanian soldier of premeditated murder in the slaying of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls, a crime that carries a mandatory death sentence.

"How would you feel if the victims were your girls? Would you have glorified the killer?" chief prosecutor, Lt.-Col. Muhammad Hijazi, asked the five-judge tribunal in a speech to sum up his case.

The defendant, Cpl. Ahmed Dakamseh, is on trial for gunning down the girls March 13 on Naharayim island.

Hijazi said evidence presented during the five-week trial also implicated Dakamseh of "raising arms" against fellow soldiers who tried to overpower him as he opened fire from his guard post.

Dakamseh, who pleaded innocent, says he fired because the girls mocked and disturbed him as he prayed while on duty.

Hijazi said that Dakamseh asked for a rifle and extra ammunition on the day of the shooting, at the border territory of Naharayim, which Jordan leased to Israel under the 1994 peace treaty.

He said Dakamseh hinted at his plans to one of his army comrades on the morning of the killing and smiled at another as he loaded his rifle just seconds before opening fire.

Defense attorneys have tried to show that Dakamseh is mentally unstable in a bid to convince the court that the act was not premeditated but occurred during a fit of rage.

If convicted, Dakamseh, 26, will be executed.

In an emotional two-hour speech, Hijazi said Dakamseh "has deliberately killed the innocent Israeli girls."

Turning to Dakamseh in the dock, Hijazi asked: "What right did you have to shed innocent blood? Cold-bloodedly, treacherously and without any human feelings, you have taken innocent lives."

The case was adjourned until next Saturday, when the defense will wrap up its case.

The court has heard that Dakamseh suffered a personality disorder.

But while prosecution psychiatrists say the disorder did not cause mental instability, defense medical experts said such a condition could make patients unconscious of their acts. Dakamseh's family says he had fits of rage and tried to commit suicide several times in the past 15 years.

## Arab world reportedly working to mend fences

**By DOUGLAS DAVIS**

LONDON - Intensive diplomatic efforts are under way to convene a meeting of foreign ministers from Syria, Iran and Iraq, and to facilitate a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The flurry of activity, inspired by Syrian diplomacy, is designed to create new regional alliances that will spearhead campaigns to halt the process of normalization with Israel and to neutralize the perceived threat posed by an Israeli-Turkish alliance.

The alliances will also effectively challenge Washington's policy of dual containment by increasing the profile of both Iraq and Iran and reducing their regional isolation.

The London-based daily *al-Quds al-Arabi* reported last week that attempts are being made to arrange an early "emergency meeting" among the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran and Iraq.

The paper quotes diplomatic sources as saying the intensified, upgraded and urgent contacts are the result of evidence which demonstrates Israeli involvement in Turkey's military offensive in northern Iraq.

It is also the result of what the paper describes as an increasingly flexible approach to foreign policy by Iranian elements which favor an end to long-running disputes with Iraq.

These elements are expected to become more influential in the administration of Iranian president-elect Mohammed Khatami.

In a related development, the Arabic media - including the Saudi-owned media - reported last week that Iran and Saudi Arabia are signalling their intention to ease long-standing strains in their relationship and usher in an era of friendship and cooperation.

Much significance is being placed on a visit to Tehran last week by Saudi Minister of State Abdelaziz al-Khwaiter, who delivered messages from King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdallah to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Saudi daily *Asharq al-Awsat* quoted Rafsanjani's deputy for parliamentary and legal affairs, Atallah Mohajerani, as saying the talks covered bilateral relations, the Islamic Conference Organization summit and the Middle East Economic Summit, both scheduled for November, and the situation in the West Bank.

"Given the extremely sensitive conditions through which the region is passing," he said, "I think the visit of the Saudi leadership's special envoy can be considered to be purposeful and exceptional."

Mohajerani added that the meeting demonstrated Tehran and Riyadh were "determined to strengthen their bilateral bonds without hesitation" and to raise their level of cooperation.

The Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, he noted, could also "contribute to the resolution of many issues related to peace and security in the region, whether in the shared Gulf basin or in the wider Islamic world, foremost of which is the Palestine question."

## Syria, Iran hold high-level talks in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi opened talks in Damascus yesterday with his Syrian counterpart Abdel-Halim Khaddam on Turkish-Israeli military cooperation and Ankara's military campaign in northern Iraq, officials said.

They said Habibi, accompanied by a high-ranking team including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, will also discuss an economic conference grouping Arab countries and Israel in Qatar in November.

Syria and Iran have strongly opposed the conference.

Iranian officials said Iran would offer during the talks the holding of an alternative economic conference that would exclude Israel.

Officials said Habibi and Khaddam would clear the regular meeting of the supreme Syrian-Iranian joint commission which is assigned to promote bilateral cooperation between the two states.

During his stay in Damascus Habibi will meet Hizbullah leaders. He is also due to meet leaders of Palestinian factions which are opposed to the Israeli-PLO peace deal.

Syria and Iran, longtime allies which share borders with Turkey and Iraq, have expressed concern recently after several agreements between the military establishments in Israel and Turkey.

The two countries have also denounced Turkey's two-month-old incursion into northern Iraq in pursuit of rebel Kurdish guerrillas.

## Artificial spinal disk implants now available here

**By JUDY SIEGEL**

Two men suffering from severe back pains due to a damaged spinal disk have become the first in Israel to undergo implantation of a synthetic disk made of plastic and metal.

The implants are not suited to everyone; it is intended only for those up to the age of about 50 who have not yet developed advanced degenerative changes in the spine and whose damaged disk is in the lower part of the back.

Prof. Jacob Nerubay, head of Sheba Hospital's unit for spinal deformities, led the surgical team, which performed the operation on two men, one 34 years old and the other 41.

The Tel Hashomer hospital was the first to request, and receive, Health Ministry permission to carry out the implantation.

So far, 1,000 such operations - pioneered in Germany and France - have been carried out in Europe. Until now, the main treatment for damaged disks has been to remove them, often followed by fusing of the spine,

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## US court closes used-car Jewish charity

**By MARLYN HENRY**

NEW YORK - In the latest scandal to tar the American Orthodox community, a California judge last week shut down a controversial San Francisco charity that raised millions of dollars by soliciting and auctioning used cars.

The Jewish Educational Center, set up to help Russian immigrants, became one of the largest used-car operations in the US by successfully appealing for cars in California and in metropolitan New York. The center enticed donors by suggesting that the value of the donated car qualified as a tax deduction.

The center then sold the cars at auction. According to financial statements filed by the center in February and reported by local newspapers, only \$1.5 million, or 17 percent, of the \$8.5m. it received in merchandise during the 1996-97 fiscal year was spent for charitable purposes.

The center is facing state and local charges including unfair business practices and false advertising. The group's radio advertising said 100 percent of donations went to charity. The state attorney general also accused the center's founders - Rabbi Bentzion Pil and his wife, Mattie Plotkin - of diverting some of the funds to buy a home and pay for their son's bar mitzva. Pil is originally from Uzbekistan; Plotkin is from Brooklyn. Their philosophy is Lubavitcher, although they reportedly have no links to Habad.

Federal authorities are investigating the center for possible mail fraud and money laundering, but no federal charges have been filed,

according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Orthodox communities in the US recently have been rocked by charges of criminal and financial scandals. Last month, two haredi rabbis were charged with laundering \$1.75 million in Colombian drug profits through the bank accounts of a yeshiva and synagogue in Borough Park, Brooklyn.

In May, federal prosecutors indicted six men from the haredi village of New Square, New York, on charges of bilking the US government of millions of dollars from housing and education programs. In December, the director of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Borough Park was charged with conspiring to steal more than \$600,000 worth of the council's funds.

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